

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 251.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1898.



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1898

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji,
28th September, 1898

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report which I have recently received from Mr. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner, on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the period January, 1897, to March, 1898, inclusive.

Mr. Woodford at the end of his Report refers to the desirability of increasing his police force, and of his being provided with a small steamer to facilitate his visiting the distant parts of the group; but, as you are doubtless aware, the revenue of the Protectorate is at present barely sufficient to balance the existing expenditure.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

GENERAL REPORT.

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

1. The number of white and other foreign residents in the Protectorate remains approximately the same for the period under review as it was at the time of my previous Report, the vacancies caused by death or removal having been filled up by fresh arrivals.

MORTALITY.

2. The number of deaths during the period has been large, viz., nine deaths among a population of under 50, but such a high rate of mortality is not to be considered as by any means a normal one, a large proportion of the deaths having been accidental. One death only occurred from what residents in the Solomons have been in the habit of considering "natural cause" viz., murder by the natives.

The causes of death may be summarized as follows :—

Murder by natives	...	...	...	1
Drowning	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	1
Dynamite accidents	...	...	...	2
Natural causes	...	...	...	3
Information incomplete	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	9

3. To persons acclimatized the Solomon Islands are probably as healthy as most other tropical climates. New arrivals are almost certain sooner or later to suffer from malarial fever, but in a comparatively mild form, and not of so severe a type as the fever met with in New Guinea.

Even the natives themselves are subject to this fever, and during the operation of clearing the bush on Tulagi, for the Government station, the native police, and others employed, suffered frequently ; but such attacks were to be expected during the process of opening up virgin forest land, and have become less and less frequent as the sun has penetrated to the cleared ground round the houses. At the present time the health of all at Tulagi is excellent.

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TRADE.

4. In spite of the low price of copra, and the fact that vegetable ivory nuts were, in the month of March, 1898, absolutely not worth the price of freight to Sydney, the volume of exports from the Protectorate has been well maintained, and compares favourably with the previous returns. The following table of amounts may be considered as approximately accurate.

Statement of Exports, 1895, 1896, and 1897, to 31st March 1898.

Year.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Bêche de Mer.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Plants.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons. cwts.	lbs.	Tons. cwts.	Bundles.	Bags.	Bags.	Cases.
1895	1,200	586	6 10	891	7 18	—	—	—	—
1896	1,383	600	8 9½	1,379	3 15	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1897, to 31st March, 1898.	1,688	580	8 3¼	3,149*	5 10	290	129	7	23

* I have omitted altogether an amount of turtle shell, stated to be two tons, exported in February, 1897, by the schooner "Lark," as I think the quantity is subject to correction, but the amount of turtle shell exported during the 15 months under notice has been large and, with the above exception, the figures are not open to doubt.

6. Of the new items of export included in the statement for 1897, the rattans are used in New South Wales for making coal baskets, but return little more than the cost of freight, and are, consequently, hardly likely in the future to prove a valuable article of export, while the plants consisted for the most part of an orchid (*dendrobium speciosum*). The systematic denudation of a district of such slow-growing plants as its orchid flora, can hardly be considered a subject for congratulation, except from the point of view of the export returns.

Rubber.

7. I had hoped to have been able to include rubber in the list of exports for 1897, but although endeavours have been made by traders, notably by Mr. Svensen of Marau, to discover a native tree yielding commercial rubber, the attempts hitherto have been without success. Samples handed to me by Mr. Svensen were forwarded to London in December, 1897, for report. I regret to say that they prove only to belong to the quality known commercially as "Potatoe gutta," and are of little value. So far, no rubber of commercial value has been discovered, but Mr. Svensen has instructed the natives of various places in the method of collection.

IMPORTS.

8. The denomination of articles of import, of which no complete return is at present obtainable, presents little variation from those enumerated in my previous Report. A desire is, however, growing among the natives for the possession of boats, and two or three arrive from Sydney by every steamer, built to the order of various traders, for sale to the natives.

AGRICULTURE.

9. Planting operations have been somewhat extended during the past fifteen months. The existing coconut plantations owned by white residents remain as previously reported. Mr. Wheatley of Rubiana has commenced a new plantation, but at present I have had no opportunity of inspecting it.

The coffee plantation of the Marau Company at Kaukau, on the north coast of Guadalcanar, suffered a great misfortune in September 1897, by the murder of the manager by natives of the neighbouring bush district; and the plantation was consequently unavoidably neglected for some months; but from recent

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reports, it appears that the coffee is in a most thriving condition, and is already showing signs of bearing fruit. I have cause to suppose that further experiments in coffee planting will shortly be commenced, as the climate appears suitable for the growth of this product; and applications for the acquisition of land for the purpose of coffee planting have been received.

Coffee seedlings planted at the Government Station in August, 1897, shewed signs of flowering at the end of March, 1898. Some seedlings given by me to the natives of Savo are stated by them to have made more growth than those at Tulagi, but I have not seen them myself. Savo I should think most eminently suited for coffee.

MINERALS.

10. An elaborately equipped expedition, including a mining expert and an assayer, visited the Protectorate during the past year from San Francisco, with the object of prospecting for minerals. The hopes of the expedition were based upon some fabulous accounts of the existence of gold and copper reported to have been seen on San Christoval, by a man of notorious character, who induced the members of the expedition to embark their capital in the undertaking. A shaft was sunk at Maru Bay on San Christoval, and samples obtained from various parts of that Island, but the result of the assays shewed only the presence of silver ranging from 0.15 oz. to 0.3 oz. per ton with a minute trace of gold in all. One other, the richest found, gave 0.44 oz. of silver per ton, and 0.03 of gold; the value of this sample was stated to be about 4s. per ton. The "solid cliff of pure copper," reported to exist upon Rennell Island, was searched for in vain, although the informant asserted positively that he had seen it, and knew where it was. Eventually he attempted to account for his inability to find it by saying that it must have disappeared in an earthquake. A sample of green mineral, apparently malachite, from another locality in the Protectorate was submitted by me to the assayer, and found to contain 46.94 per cent. of pure copper.

It is to be regretted that an expedition so well equipped for prospecting should have been so much discouraged by their ill success as to abandon the enterprise before making further efforts in other parts of the Protectorate, as I imagine it will be long before persons in such a position to thoroughly test the value of any minerals discovered will again visit the Protectorate.

It would be desirable that the locality whence the sample containing copper was obtained should be further explored.

METEOROLOGICAL.

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11. The course of the weather in the Solomons follows certain rules, which residents are able to formulate with considerable certainty.

From about the beginning of April to the end of October, the south-east trade wind blows with regularity, especially in the southern portion of the group, (with the northern portion, under German influence, extending to within 5° of the line, I am not now concerned, but the south-east season in that portion of the group is not nearly so well defined as in the latitudes between 8° and 11° south which may be said to include practically the whole of the Islands under the British Protectorate).

During the months from November to March, calms and variable winds are the rule, with an occasional spell of severe weather from the north-west, generally accompanied by torrents of rain. I am, however, informed by old residents that one season is by no means like another, and that a year may even sometimes pass without a strong north-westerly blow.

The south-east end of the Protectorate in latitude 11° S. may be considered approximately the limit of the extent of the north-west monsoon. South of that limit, during the months from November to March, circular storms, caused, I imagine, by the contest for supremacy between the monsoon and the trade-wind, carrying devastation in their track, are to be expected. From these hurricanes the Solomon group is fortunately free; and, consequently, plantations are exempt from the risk of damage by hurricane, a risk that must be reckoned with in the case of Fiji, and other groups further to the southward.

The barometer is of little use in prognosticating the weather. During the south-east season the glass is high and, generally speaking, the stronger the trade the higher the glass. For north-west weather the glass falls, and remains low during its continuance.

The range of the thermometer is small, and the temperature is rarely oppressive. A temperature of 90° in the shade is considered high, and I have never registered a higher one than 92° at, or near, sea level. During the early mornings, under the same condition, the thermometer falls generally to about 77° , and upon dull days stands regularly at about 80° to 82° . The lowest night temperature I ever registered at sea level was 74° . This was on the north coast of Guadalcanar where the nights are particularly cool and pleasant, the heat of the day being tempered by the land breeze, having its origin in the high mountain masses of that island, which sets in regularly about 8 o'clock, and blows until 8 or 9 in the morning. The rainfall, I have reason to believe, varies considerably in different

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localities. Marau Sound at the south-east end of Guadalcanar is, during the south-east season, probably one of the wettest coast places in the Protectorate. The clouds carried by the trade-wind appear to be arrested in their course by the high mountains of the island, and precipitate themselves in rain. In fact at Marau it appears to me during the south-east season to be generally raining, although I am assured by residents that droughts of a fortnight or three weeks sometimes occur.

The Government Station at Tulagi may, on the other hand, be said to escape somewhat of its due share of rainfall. During the south-east season clouds and rain squalls are frequently observed following the high land of Gela, while Tulagi escapes altogether.

A rain gauge has been kept at Tulagi since the beginning of October, 1897, and the results are herewith tabulated. I have prefixed certain observations on the rainfall, obtained by Dr. Guppy, of H.M.S. "Lark," 15 years ago. These may assist in enabling one to arrive at an approximate idea, but more extended observations are necessary before a correct estimate of the rainfall at any one station can be arrived at.

February and March at Tulagi were very wet months, rain falling nearly every day. The greatest quantity of rain registered in one day was 4.93 inches on 1st March, and this all fell in about two hours and a half. The rainfall for January 17th may have exceeded the amount above mentioned, but, in consequence of my temporary absence from home, it was not properly recorded, and on my return the gauge was found to be overflowing.

The rainfall at Tulagi for February, 1898, shews an average of over an inch per day, and that for March nearly as much.

Observations of rainfall in British Solomon Islands, in inches :—

1882 at Santa Anna :—

November	...	...	7.60
December	...	...	13.96
Total	...	...	21.56

1882 at Ugi :—

October	...	...	10.68
November	...	...	10.16
December	...	...	9.57
Total	...	...	30.41

1883 at Santa Anna :—

January	...	...	...	5·23
February	...	...	...	9·63
March	...	...	...	4·40
April	...	...	...	14·96
May	...	...	...	11·28
June	...	...	...	26·88
July	...	...	...	18·61
August	...	...	...	11·74
September	...	...	...	4·81
October	...	...	...	5·68
November	...	...	...	6·57
December	...	...	...	5·24
Total				125·03

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1883 at Ugi :—

January	...	...	...	13·46
February	...	...	...	13·89
March	...	...	...	10·02
April	...	...	...	23·28
May	...	...	...	6·39
June	...	...	...	12·83
July	...	...	...	24·60
August	...	...	...	15·76
September	...	...	...	7·36
October	...	...	...	5·15
November	...	...	...	5·30
December	...	...	...	8·20
Total				146·24

Rainfall at Tulagi :—

			Rainfall on	Greatest in
			8 days	one day.
1897. October	2·91 in.	...	...	1·17 in.
„ November	5·66 „	17 „	...	1·17 „
„ December	11·03 „	18 „	...	1·98 „
1898. January	9·51 „	18 „	...	4·10 „
„ February	28·55 „	21 „	...	3·72 „
„ March	27·89 „	22 „	...	4·93 „

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GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

12. The purchase of the island of Tulagi in about 1896, as a site for a Government Station, having been approved of by His Excellency the late High Commissioner, and a sum of money voted by the Imperial Government for its equipment, operations were commenced in May, 1897. The island being densely clothed with heavy virgin forest, I first employed some of the local natives to cut a wide track across the island from one side to the other, in order to get a better idea of the nature of the ground. The next operation was to select sites for the residence and policemen's quarters, to have the timber upon them cut down, and to clear away the mangrove from the landing place. During the months of May and June I resided at Gavutu, (about three miles distant), going backwards and forwards daily by boat, but as this entailed considerable loss of time, I erected a hut near the landing place, which I occupied during the latter part of June in company with five native prisoners, and three other natives, returning to Gavutu every Saturday.

At the end of June, H.M.S. "Torch" arrived from Fiji with eight native police for my use, and I at once began burning off the fallen timber, levelling the ground on the site of the residence, and making a road to it from the landing place. As there was not sufficient accommodation at Tulagi for the police, we again took up our residence at Gavutu, pending the erection of a temporary house.

On the 5th August the S.S. "Titus" arrived from Sydney bringing the timber and other materials for the erection of the residence and gaol, and a carpenter to do the work. After building some temporary huts, I moved all the police permanently to Tulagi on August 16th.

The site being already prepared, and levelled, and the posts on which the house was to be built being ready before the arrival of the timber from Sydney, the building was at once begun. Work was delayed from time to time in consequence of the fever from which all suffered in a greater or less degree, but this was to be only expected in a place freshly cleared; but by the end of November, when the carpenter left, the residence and gaol were practically completed, a permanent water supply for washing and bathing constructed, and a road from the landing place to the residence. During December and January the road was further improved, but some rectification of the levels is still necessary, more bush was cleared, and planted with bananas and sweet potatoes, and at the end of January I began the permanent police quarters. These are built partly of blue and red gum, with an oregon floor, and partly of native materials. They were completed during March.

A boat house to supersede the temporary one is now under construction, and when that is finished a landing wharf for boats will be undertaken. No additional expense, except that of the labour, will be incurred for these, as the materials are either already in stock or to be cut upon the spot.

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A mooring buoy for the boat has been laid down in 13 fathoms of water, and another buoy placed to mark a coral patch in a position dangerous to vessels entering from the southward.

The work as above described has been executed for a sum considerably below the estimate.

Upon the completion of the work now in hand, and in preparation, more land will be cleared and planted with coconuts, a considerable area of excellent coconut land being available.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS, AND EXTENSION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

13. The Protectorate was visited during the season of 1897 by three of Her Majesty's ships, viz : the "Wallaroo," the "Rapid," and the "Torch."

Reports of the proceedings of these vessels have already been furnished.

Acting upon his instructions, Captain Pollard, of H.M.S. "Wallaroo," proclaimed a Protectorate in the name of Her Majesty over the islands of Rennell, Bellona, and Sikiana, or Stewart Island, and they were included in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WHITE RESIDENTS.

14. During the period under review the Protectorate was comparatively free from such attacks as have, in past years, made the Solomon group somewhat notorious.

In September, 1897, Jean Pouret, the manager of the Marau Co.'s coffee plantation on Guadalcanar, was murdered by natives of the neighbouring bush. I visited the place within a week of the occurrence with six native police and ten traders. Three of the guilty parties were shot, and two captured and sent to Fiji for trial. They received sentences of 10 years' imprisonment. The speedy retribution which overtook the guilty parties in this case has had an excellent effect upon the natives of the north coast of Guadalcanar.

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In November the trader Jean Prat, and one of his crew, were severely wounded by natives of Bellowa, on Vella Lavella. The attack was a particularly treacherous and premeditated one, but with the small force at my disposal I was unable to deal with the matter. It remains to be dealt with by one of Her Majesty's ships.

The boats of a labour ship were fired upon by a village on the coast of Malaita, and the fire was returned. No damage was suffered, and no action taken.

MISSIONS.

15. The Melanesian (Church of England) Mission steamer "Southern Cross" made her usual three visits to the Protectorate during the year 1897, and some changes were made in the white staff at the various stations. A most superior church was completed at Ulawa, built by the natives themselves under the direction of their native teacher.

The Reverend Dr. Welchman has been permanently resident at Siota, on Gela, during the year. His professional services have been tendered freely to all in need of them, and he has earned the gratitude of the white residents for his unremitting attention to those in need of assistance. A hospital is to be shortly erected at Siota with the aid of a grant of £300 made to the Mission by a charitable society in England.

Many natives have recently returned from Queensland and Fiji, especially to Malaita, who have received Christian teaching during their absence, and are anxious for the means of continuing it on their return. I believe that a rapid extension of the Mission's work upon Malaita may be looked for in the near future.

The Marist Fathers (Roman Catholic) are about to commence operations in the Protectorate, and will probably select a site at, or near, to the coast of Guadalcanar, for their first station.

CODE OF LAWS FOR THE ISLAND OF GELA.

16. During January I invited the chiefs and people of Gela to a meeting at Tulagi for the consideration of a code of laws for the better government of the island. About a thousand natives attended. The proposed code was founded upon that established in the Gilbert and Ellice Island Protectorate, and is now provisionally in operation.

District and village chiefs were appointed who were to send offenders to Tulagi for punishment. The chiefs have, on the whole, evinced an intelligent disposition to enforce the laws, and several offenders have been sent to Tulagi for punishment.

17. I have considered it inadvisable to improve the same laws at present upon the island of Savo ; but the chiefs of that island have voluntarily agreed to refer all cases to Tulagi, and to accept the Resident's advice and ruling in cases of dispute. One prisoner guilty of a minor offence has been already sent to Tulagi from Savo for punishment.

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18. From Guadalcanar the natives have sent for advice, (in one instance to ask for permission to make war upon a bush tribe). The natives of the village of Tasimboko, occupying some of the best land on the island, who were expelled from their houses and lands some years ago, have, through influence brought to bear from Tulagi, been permitted to return.

19. Several canoes have visited Tulagi from Malaita, one of them having come, with a friendly message from a powerful chief on that island, a distance of over 100 miles.

20. The most pressing need at present is for an increased police force, and the means of visiting the distant parts of the Protectorate. A small steamer, in preference to a sailing vessel, is much needed, but the funds to acquire, and support, such a vessel cannot at present be provided from local sources.

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REPORT FOR 1898-9.

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1899,

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250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	British Solomon Islands	1897-98
252	Seychelles	1897
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256	Newfoundland	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897-98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force	1897-98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia... ..	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad... ..	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"

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(For Report for 1897-8, see No. 251.)

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HIGH COMMISSIONER SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.

30th June 1899.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report by Mr. C. M. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner, on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the year 1898-99.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE GENERAL REPORT.

From 1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899.

1. The British Solomon Islands Protectorate, which up to June 1897 comprised only the southern islands of the Solomon group, was in that month extended by the proclamation of the Protectorate over the islands of Sikiana, Rennel, and Bellona, and in the following year, 1898, the Santa Cruz group, the Reef Islands, the Duff group, Vanicoro, Tucopia, Cherry Island, and Mitre Island were added. The Protectorate now extends in a W.N.W. and E.S.E. direction from Treasury Island to Mitre Island for a distance of 900 miles.

The most recent additions to the Protectorate are at present of small importance from the point of view of trade, there being only one white resident trader, who lives at the island of Santa Cruz; while a missionary of the Melanesian Mission spends two or three months during the year also at Santa Cruz.

With such a long stretching district to attend to, and the resources at my disposal, it has been impossible for me to visit places at a distance, and, consequently, up to the present time some of the more distant islands, and especially the newly acquired portions of the Protectorate, have not received such attention as I should have wished. I have, however, visited Santa Cruz twice in a trading steamer.

Better facilities for locomotion are urgently needed, and I hope that means may be provided from Imperial Funds, or otherwise, to supply them, as well as an increased staff of native police.

2. WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The number of these has slightly increased during the period under review, and may now be taken to be between 50 and 60.

The advent of the Marist Fathers Roman Catholic Mission, and the inception of a new industry, viz., systematic fishing for pearl shell, may be considered to account for this increase. The number and persons of the white residents already here at the commencement of the year under review remaining much as before.

3. MORTALITY.

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I have satisfaction in being able to report a greatly decreased mortality among white residents since the date of my last report.

In place of the nine deaths then reported, I have now only to report two, one being that of the trader Mr. Pascal Jean Prat who died on the 1st October 1898, undoubtedly from the effects of a wound in the head inflicted by a native of Vella Lavella some eleven months previously, and that of Captain Keating, master of the "Chittoor," trading vessel of Sydney, who accidentally shot himself on board that vessel off Tulagi in February 1899. The last case, however, should not, strictly speaking, be considered as that of a resident.

The murder of two white men by natives of the island of Utupua has been already officially reported, but as the event occurred before the declaration of the Protectorate over that island, I do not include them in my list. The circumstances were enquired into at the time by Commander Freeman of H.M.S. "Mohawk."

It is satisfactory that no information of accident, from the use of dynamite to either white men or natives has reached me during the year.

Malarial fever of a mild type has, as usual, been rife among the white residents, especially during the hotter months of the year, from November to March, but this is always so, and must be reckoned with by those having to reside in this climate.

Among the natives, the most fatal disease appears to have been dysentery, and reports of numerous deaths from this cause have reached me from widely separated parts of the Protectorate.

I regret to say that an epidemic of dysentery caused eleven deaths of natives, mostly young boys, at the Melanesian Mission Station at Siota, early last year; and another outbreak, at a later period, carried off five or six more.

The fact that natives are extremely careless about the quality of the water they use is probably the cause to which these deaths may primarily be assigned; but the ignorance of remedial measures, and the almost hopeless disinclination of a native to submit to proper medical treatment and discipline, is a large contributing factor.

A stock of drugs is kept at the Government Station, and is freely dispensed to all applicants.

The loathsome skin disease (*tinea circinata tropica*) is particularly prevalent among the native population, but appears to be easily cured by the application of chrysophanic acid or Goa powder, and I have numerous requests for this remedy. All prisoners or men offering themselves for work at the Government Station showing the slightest traces of this disease are at once subjected to a course of the above mentioned treatment,

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and it is generally successful, except in the most inveterate cases, after about three applications on alternate days, the complete cure in ordinary cases occupying about a week. So well are the natives aware of the value of this remedy, that the traders all keep it for sale.

The prevalence of this disease varies in different localities. Upon the island of Gela, or Florida, it is particularly prevalent, but upon the neighbouring island of Savo it is comparatively rare.

The disease is doubtless engendered by careless and dirty habits, neglect of cleanliness in the houses, and neglect of bathing. The natives appear to treat the disease with the utmost indifference, but I endeavour, as much as possible, to direct their attention to its causes, and the facility with which a cure may be effected.

4. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following tabulated statement of Revenue and Expenditure since the establishment of the Resident Commissionership, cannot be considered an unfavourable one :—

In the year 1897 a grant of £1,200 was made from Imperial funds for the purpose of establishing a Government Station, and was so expended during the year expiring 31st March 1898.

During the past year expenses have been kept down to the lowest possible limit, but no necessary work of a permanent character has been neglected.

The amount of cash balance standing to the credit of the Protectorate on 31st March 1899 is a sum of £460 10s. 11d., with liabilities nil.

Statement.

Period.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898 ...	957 3 11	1,933 2 0
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899 ...	1,257 7 10	1,030 1 8

Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney,	£ s. d.
31st March 1899.	504 2 0
Cash in safe	88 3 3
	£592 5 3
Less amount belonging to estates of persons deceased.	131 14 4
Surplus on 31st March 1899	<u>£460 10 11</u>

3. TRADE—EXPORTS.

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The amount of trade for the year remains about the same as for the previous one, with a slight tendency towards improvement.

Ivory nuts have continued practically unsaleable, but a small shipment has recently been made which realized something over the cost of freight to Sydney; and it is probable that an improvement in price may shortly occur, in which case shipments would be immediately made. Some of the traders are continuing to buy these nuts from the natives, when brought for sale, in the expectation of an improvement in the price.

Copra, the chief item of export, has recently reached a more satisfactory price, and traders are likely to make every possible effort to increase their out-put.

The copra produced by the natives is all smoke dried, but some of the traders, especially those owning plantations of their own, have lately commenced to ship sun-dried copra in bags, and have realized a greatly enhanced price for the product.

The export of pearl shell remains at about the same as for the two previous years, but in future it is probable that this item will figure much more prominently in the export returns. A properly equipped party of experienced divers has lately commenced diving for the large gold-lipped shell. No shipments have yet been made, but the results obtained have been, I am informed, up to the present very encouraging. Should they continue so a valuable industry may be expected to develop, but at present the waters of the Protectorate have not been properly explored for this product. The shell is said to have been found at great depths, descents having been made in over 20 fathoms. The natives prize this variety of shell very highly, but are not able to obtain it for themselves, as they are indifferent divers. In fact, the traders have been in the habit of importing gold-lipped shell for sale to the natives, who use it in making personal ornaments.

The pearl shell figuring in the export returns is of a small and inferior quality, the best being worth, perhaps, sixty pounds per ton. It is all obtained by the natives themselves in comparatively shallow water.

The export of turtle shell remains about the same as before. The shell from the Protectorate is considered to be generally of very superior quality. It is all obtained by the natives, and they are well aware of its value.

The majority of the beche de mer shewn was procured among the islands of the Santa Cruz group, but does not represent the whole amount exported, as it is believed that unlicensed persons sailing from the New Hebrides have visited this part of the Protectorate, and have obtained some considerable quantity from this locality. At present it is quite impossible to keep any check upon such visits, which generally take place at the time when the men-of-war are absent from the Protectorate.

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The following table shews the amounts of exports for the last four years. The figures are approximate only, but are, I think, fairly accurate :—

STATEMENT OF EXPORTS.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Beche de Mer.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Plants.
1895	Tons. 1,200	Tons. 586	Tons. 6 tons 10 cwt.	Lbs. 891	Tons. 7 tons 18 cwt.	Bundles. —	Bags. —	Bags. —	Cases. —
1896	1,383	600	8 tons 9½ cwt.	1,379	3 tons 15 cwt.	—	—	—	—
15 Months. 1st January 1897 to 31st March 1898 ...	1,688	580	8 tons 3¼ cwt.	3,149	5 tons 10 cwt.	290	129	7	23
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899 ...	1,456	65	8 tons 15½ cwt.	3,133¼	4 tons 6¾ cwt.	—	5	2	6

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6. TRADE—IMPORTS.

Tobacco continues to be the chief article of import, but it is difficult at present to state the amount with any degree of accuracy. In addition to the amount used by the traders for purposes of exchange, the labour ships dispose of large quantities, either in the purchase of native food, or by way of gifts to the natives.

The demand for boats among the natives is steadily increasing. These are built in Sydney. The Sydney steamer on a recent voyage carried no less than seventeen boats, which had been built to the orders of local traders for sale to natives, most of which were already sold before arrival.

There has been a marked increase in the import of timber, roofing iron, &c., for buildings. Both the Melanesian and the Marist Fathers Mission, as well as the traders, have contributed to the increase in these items.

There has also been a considerable increase in the amount of coal imported for the use of Her Majesty's ships of war, the more modern class of vessel now visiting the Protectorate requiring more coal than those of an older type. At the present moment Mr. Nielson, the contractor for the supply of coal for Her Majesty's Navy, has in store at Gavutu a stock of about 1,000 tons, and it is probable that all will be required during the present season.

7. LABOUR TRADE.

The Protectorate was visited by five labour ships from Queensland, which made 11 voyages during the twelve months; and by one ship from Fiji, which made one voyage.

No casualties occurred, nor was any case of firing at recruiting boats reported to me. A native boat's crew of a Queensland labour vessel was convicted of having concealed firearms on board the vessel, and served a sentence of imprisonment at Tulagi, in addition to a fine.

8. SHIPPING.

Two new cutters and a ketch have arrived from Sydney during the year to the order of local traders for service in the Protectorate, and a local schooner has been sold to a trader in New Guinea.

Several of the vessels already here have changed owners during the year, two of them having been bought by the Marist Fathers Mission; otherwise, the list of vessels trading within the Protectorate remains much as before.

Communication with Sydney has been maintained by Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co.'s steamer at intervals of about six weeks, and by the sailing vessel "Chittoor," owned by Mr. Waterhouse, at intervals of about three months.

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9. AGRICULTURE.

I have again to report an increase in the area of land under cultivation by white residents, and this is again likely to be added to in the immediate future.

In addition to the plantations of coco-nuts already existing, a plantation has been commenced at Russell Island. This island has the reputation of producing some of the finest nuts in the Protectorate, and I have taken means for procuring some plant nuts from that locality for the plantation now in course of formation at the Government Station at Tulagi.

I hesitate, in the absence of accurate information, to make an estimate of the area now under coco-nuts planted by white residents, but the increase, since my former report, has been considerable. From its freedom from hurricanes the Protectorate is eminently suitable for the formation of coco-nut plantations, and large areas of flat coast lands are available.

Coffee still remains in the experimental stage, but favourable reports have reached me of Mr. Svensen's two plantations on Guadalcanar. No sign of leaf disease has at present manifested itself.

The experimental plantation at the Government Station is already bearing fruit.

10. CATTLE.

Cows are kept at three stations, viz., at Ugi, Marau, and Gavutu, and the climate seems to suit them. The number kept will certainly increase as coco-nut plantations are formed; but it is not advisable to put cows under coco-nuts until the trees are about five years old, as they eat the leaves of the young trees. After that time the trees will have grown out of their reach, and their presence is beneficial, as tending to keep down the growth of weeds and grass. The climate of the Protectorate appears to be unsuited to sheep.

During the year a horse was imported from Sydney by a trader at Rubiana for use on his coco-nut plantation. This was the first horse that had ever been brought to the Solomons. There was some difficulty in landing the animal, and, after spending a day on a platform lashed between two boats, it had eventually to be towed over a coral reef. However, after the landing was effected it made up for the inconvenience it had been subjected to. The natives evinced the greatest dread of the, to them, gigantic creature, and could not be induced to go near it. It soon became unmanageable and wandered at will about the bush, a terror to the neighbourhood. From some cause unexplained it died a month or two after arrival, doubtless to the intense relief of the natives.

11. MINERALS.

No further attempt has been made during the year to prospect for minerals, the ill success of the American expedition in 1897 having apparently choked off all further enterprise for the present.

A very small seam of what appeared to be coal was pointed out to me by the natives during a visit to the south coast of the island of Guadalcanar, near the village of Bolonda, to the east of Cape Hunter. They assured me that it would burn. I was at the time starting upon an inland trip, and upon my return the boulder in which the seam occurred had been broken up by the action of the waves. The supposed occurrence of coal from the same locality has been previously reported.

A more careful examination than the time at my disposal permitted would be necessary before any opinion could be expressed.*

12. METEOROLOGICAL.

The weather during the year has been unmarked by anything out of the usual course.

The S.E. Trades were not so strong as usual, and during the N.W. season no gale of any strength occurred at all in the neighbourhood, at least, of the Government Station.

I am, however, informed that in the western portion of the Protectorate the N.W. winds were more severely felt.

Early in January, a sort of tidal wave, probably occasioned by heavy weather somewhere to the N.N.W. of the group, but unaccompanied by much wind, was experienced on the north coasts of the islands of Florida, Malaita, and San Christoval. Many native houses situated on the beach were washed away, and some small reef islets on the north coast of Malaita were swept clean. No report has reached me of any loss of life.

About the same time, severe shocks of earthquake were experienced at the volcanic island of Savo. Old natives declared them to have been the most severe that have occurred since the last eruption on this island, about 40 years ago. Many of the natives, expecting a fresh eruption, got ready their canoes to leave the island; but the expected outbreak did not take place.

The rain gauge which has been kept at the Government Station since the beginning of October 1897 registered for the twelve months January to December 1898 a total rainfall of 147.39 inches. Rain fell on 240 days.

* I have since ascertained from Mr. T. H. Switzer, at present master of the labour schooner "Sybil," that he made a report of the occurrence of coal in this locality. He informs me that some samples were brought to him by natives living at the mouth of the Ithina River, and burnt readily upon the application of a match.

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For the first three months of 1899, apparently the wettest season of the year, the rainfall registered shows 43·78 inches, as against 65·95 for the same three months of 1898. More extended observations are necessary before an annual average can be ascertained; but the observations already made will show that the Protectorate is not at all likely to suffer from want of rain.

I append a statement copied from my rain register, together with some records previously obtained:—

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL IN SOLOMON ISLANDS
IN INCHES.

1882 at Santa Anna.				1882 at Ugi.			
Month.			Inches.	Month.			Inches.
November	...	...	7·60	October	...	...	10·68
December	...	...	13·96	November	...	...	10·16
			21·56	December	...	...	9·57
							30·41
1883 at Santa Anna.				1883 at Ugi.			
Month.			Inches.	Month.			Inches.
January	...	...	5·23	January	...	...	13·46
February	...	...	9·63	February	...	...	13·89
March	...	...	4·40	March	...	...	10·02
April	...	...	14·96	April	...	...	23·28
May	...	...	11·28	May	...	...	6·39
June	...	...	26·88	June	...	...	12·83
July	...	...	18·61	July	...	...	24·60
August	...	...	11·74	August	...	...	15·76
September	...	...	4·81	September	...	...	7·36
October	...	...	5·68	October	...	...	5·15
November	...	...	6·57	November	...	...	5·30
December	...	...	5·24	December	...	...	8·20
			125·03				146·24

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL AT GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI, IN INCHES.

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	1897.			1898.			1899.		
	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.
January	—	—	—	9.51	18	1.98	14.27	27	2.42
February	—	—	—	28.55	21	3.72	12.04	19	3.45
March	—	—	—	27.89	22	4.93	17.47	20	4.15
April	—	—	—	6.67	19	1.85	—	—	—
May...	—	—	—	4.19	18	1.02	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	4.86	15	.57	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	4.86	23	1.11	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	9.94	24	2.89	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	10.58	18	2.70	—	—	—
October	2.91	8	1.17	10.23	18	2.76	—	—	—
November	5.66	17	1.17	21.14	22	4.50	—	—	—
December	11.03	18	1.98	8.97	22	1.41	—	—	—
	19.60	43	—	147.39	240	—	43.78	66	—

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13. WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

Work at the Government Station has steadily progressed since the date of my last report.

The boat-house and landing stage then in course of construction were shortly afterwards finished. A way, with rollers, has been laid down for hauling up and launching the boat.

Another house, destined at present for occupation by my assistant, has been completed and is now ready for occupation.

No paid white labour has been employed in the execution of these works, everything having been done by myself with the assistance of prison labour.

All buildings, boats, and other Government property are in good order, and sufficient materials (except timber) are in stock to maintain them in the same condition.

Planting and clearing operations have been vigorously proceeded with during the year.

A swamp of about an acre and a half, near the landing place, has been cleared of mangrove, and drains have been cut through it admitting the salt water at high tide; but it is proposed gradually to fill it up above high-water mark. Coco-nuts have been planted in it wherever possible.

An area of particularly fine coco-nut land, on the south side of the island, has been cleared of heavy timber, and an area of about thirty acres is now ready for planting. Seven acres have been already planted, and the remainder will be planted as soon as the plant nuts are ready.

In planting, I am using only the best selected nuts, and they are set out as soon as the sprout appears, thus obviating a second removal.

The trees are planted 33 feet apart, a system which gives 40 trees to the acre.

I am no believer in forecasts of agricultural results, as I have seen them so often falsified by events, but judging from the produce of existing plantations here, the return from these nuts in five or six years' time should be worth at least £5 per acre per annum.

A further area of similar land is available, and work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

Of the area under bananas, sweet potatoes, and "panas" (a species of yam), the two former are giving good returns. The latter are almost ready to dig, but so much native food is at present being brought for sale that I propose to defer digging them for the present.

The experimental plantations of coffee and cocoa are in a thriving condition, and the former is bearing.

A cutting of ceara rubber, planted in August 1897, has grown into a tree fifteen feet in height, with a stem six inches in diameter.

The total area at present under cultivation may be set down as about 60 acres.

The following is a list of trees or plants at present under cultivation at the Government Station:—

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Industrial, Food, and Fruit Plants.

Bermuda arrowroot.	Lemon.
Sugar cane.	Lime.
Papau (Carica papaga).	Pumpkin.
Orange (Mandarin).	Water melon.
„ (Paramatta).	Tomato.
Egg fruit (Solanum).	Yam (2 varieties).
Granadilla (Passiflora).	Cassava.
China beans.	Chili pepper.
Piper betel.	Capsicum.
Piper methisticum.	Custard apple.
Areca palm.	Pine apple.
Coco-nut palm.	Coffee (4 varieties).
Sago palm.	Cocoa.
Banana (4 varieties).	Ginger (Jamaica).
Taro (Caladium esculentum).	Cinnamon.
Tamarind.	Mangosteen.
Vanilla.	Sweet potato.
Turmeric (2 varieties).	Ceara rubber.
Agava rigida.	Ficus elastica.
Foureroya gigantea.	Tobacco.

Ornamental.

Coleus.	Orchids—cont.
Dracæna (varieties).	Local species (15).
Bougainvillea.	Frangipani.
Alamanda (2 varieties).	Gardenia florida.
Eucharis Amazonica.	Celosia.
Amaryllis (varieties).	Hibiscus (5 varieties).
Canna (4 varieties).	Phlox (3 varieties).
Caladium (2 varieties).	Taxonia manicata.
A malvacious shrub?	Ixora.
Lagerstroemia ovata.	Anthurium crystallinum.
Clerodendron.	Crinum Moorei.
Adiantum farleyense.	Cratons (various).
Lygodium (2 species).	Mignonette.
Orchids:—	Palms (5 species).
Cypripedium barbatum.	Poinciana regia.
Dendrobium spectabile.	&c.

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14. VISITS OF WAR SHIPS.

During the season of 1898, the Protectorate was visited by H.M. Ships "Mohawk" and "Goldfinch." Both ships, among other duties, were engaged in proclaiming the extension of the Protectorate over the Santa Cruz group and adjacent islands, as previously reported. This period of duty in the Protectorate extended from May 6th, when the "Mohawk" arrived, to October 23rd, when the "Goldfinch" finally left for the season, or a period of nearly six months.

Commander Freeman, of the "Mohawk," investigated and dealt with the case of the attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat, and at Simbo arrested an important chief of that island for a most blood-thirsty murder of 10 native women during a head-hunting raid.

The arrest, and subsequent detention pending trial, of this man at the Government Station, has produced a most excellent effect among the natives of the western portion of the Protectorate where the practice of head-hunting prevails.

From Lieut. Commander Leggatt, of H.M.S. "Goldfinch," I received most valuable assistance in administering punishment to the natives of Ugi, for repeated acts of theft from the local trader. The punishment, although of a very mild character, has produced the desired result, and not only have no further complaints been received, but on a recent visit to Ugi, I was informed by the trader that the behaviour of the natives since my former visit had been satisfactory, and that they had brought in a large quantity of copra for sale.

The French warship "Eure" paid a short visit to the Protectorate, to visit the newly established mission station of the Marist Fathers at Rua Sura; and the German warship "Falke" is reported to have made a brief call at the Island of "Sikiana" while on a voyage to the German Solomons.

15. PRISONS.

The number of prisoners under detention at the Government Station during the year has been twenty-one (21). Of these, the majority were minor cases under the local native code established by me in 1898 for the island of Gela or Florida.

A native of Ulawa is serving a sentence of three years for manslaughter; a "boat's crew" of a labour ship, a native of San Christoval, a sentence of six months, in addition to a fine, for aiding in the illegal introduction of fire-arms, and a Frenchman a sentence of six months for theft.

A native of Simbo is under detention, pending trial, for murder.

A Fijian half caste was detained for some months on a charge of murdering a white man by administering corrosive sublimate in a cup of tea in January 1898, but was discharged for want of evidence to support the charge.

A native of Savo was brought to me charged with causing the death of another Savo native by means of witchcraft. After investigation the man was discharged.

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A native of Guadalcanar, who was arrested by the natives themselves and brought to me on an alleged charge of murder, which upon investigation I came to the conclusion he was not concerned in, refuses to leave the Government Station, being probably afraid to return home, and remains here at will.

16. GENERAL.

During the year almost every island in the Solomons (proper) has been visited either by myself or by Mr. Mahaffy, my assistant.

The latter proceeded in June to the Western part of the Protectorate in H.M.S. "Mohawk," and was present when punishment was inflicted upon the natives of Billowa, on Vella Lavella, for an attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat in the previous November. Mr. Mahaffy left the "Mohawk" at the island of Simbo. From there he proceeded in Mr. Prat's schooner on a voyage through the Western Islands, including Treasury Island, returning to Tulagi from Rubiana in August. The account of his voyage, embodied in a very valuable and interesting report, has been already communicated. It relates largely to the subject of head-hunting raids. Mr. Mahaffy again visited Simbo in H.M.S. "Goldfinch" at a later date.

In September, accompanied by two native policemen, I visited the island of Ulawa, being courteously conveyed thither in the Melanesian Mission steamer "Southern Cross," for the purpose of arresting a native charged with killing his father.

Having arrested my prisoner I had to spend a week on the island, there being no means of getting away; and I at last left in a boat for Ugi. Here I was again detained a week, while a cutter belonging to the local trader was being repaired; and another prisoner, whom I had arrested for theft, escaped, after being five days in custody, by filing off his handcuffs. I eventually left Ugi for Marau Sound, on Guadalcanar, in the above mentioned cutter, and after being three days at sea I met H.M.S. "Goldfinch" and returned in her to Ugi, where, with the assistance of Lieut. Commander Leggatt, I administered punishment to the natives for repeated acts of theft.

I have also visited the island of Santa Anna, where I temporarily arrested a man for illtreating his wife; the island of San Christoval once; Savo has been visited four or five times, and the north coast of Guadalcanar several times. The island of Malaita has been visited in several places by Mr. Mahaffy on board either the "Mohawk" or "Goldfinch," and once by myself.

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In November 1898 I made an expedition occupying seven days into the interior of the island of Guadalcanar, from the south coast, with the object of ascending the high peak of Mount Lammas, stated to be 8,008 feet high. The bush natives met with were at first extremely shy, but eventually very friendly. An account of this journey is herewith enclosed. The topographical information obtained during the trip has been forwarded to Admiral Sir William Wharton, the Hydrographer at the Admiralty.

EXPEDITION TO MOUNTAINS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND OF GUADALCANAR.

The following is an account of an expedition undertaken by myself, accompanied by Mr. Svensen of Marau, with the view of ascending the high central mountain range of Guadalcanar, of which Mount Lammas, stated by Captain Denham, of H.M.S. "Herald," to be 8,008 feet high, and to be situated in latitude $9^{\circ}44'$ S. and longitude 160° E., has generally been supposed to be the highest.

The expedition failed in its main object for several reasons, the first being that it was uncertain which peak really was Mount Lammas, secondly that the Mount Lammas of Captain Denham is incorrectly placed upon the chart, thirdly that the peak which I suppose to be the Mount Lammas of Denham and Shortland is not the highest peak upon Guadalcanar, the neighbouring conspicuous mountain range of Kavo being certainly several hundred feet higher, and lastly, because it was found impossible, with the resources at our disposal, to carry sufficient food for an absence from the coast of more than one week, going and coming.

The expedition, such as it was, however, may be considered an entire success. The natives met with although at first extremely shy were eventually most friendly, and this, it must not be forgotten, in a district only a very few miles distant from the place where the Austrian expedition, belonging to the warship "Albatros," was attacked with such unfortunate results in 1896, the facts of which were well known to the bush natives with whom we came in contact.

The botanical results of the trip proved to be not altogether devoid of interest, and tend to show that the conditions at an altitude of from about 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet in the Solomons are much the same as those encountered by Sir William Macgregor in New Guinea at similar altitudes.

The experience gained on the present expedition will make it easy to achieve the ascent of the Kavo range at a future time; in fact, except for the want of food, we could have reached Kavo in about another day and a half from the point where we turned back. Leaving Tulagi, the Government Station, on the morning of November 11th in Mr. Svensen's schooner the "Sikiana," we

reached the island of Savo the same afternoon, and anchored for the night. Departing from Savo the next day, we arrived and anchored in Wanderer Bay, on the S.W. coast of Guadalcanar, on the morning of November 13th.

It was at this place that Mr. Benjamin Boyd was murdered about the year 1853, and the bay is named after his yacht the "Wanderer."

An old native pointed out to me on the return from our trip—for I was careful not to refer to the matter before—the place where the murder actually took place.

As soon as we dropped anchor a message was sent to the chief Pauro, who is a man of considerable influence both among the coast dwellers and those living in the bush in this neighbourhood, and he arrived on board during the afternoon. Mr. Svensen, on a previous visit, had sounded him upon the practicability of a mountain expedition, and, upon his arrival, he at once expressed his willingness to accompany us.

Our plans having been previously talked over, it was arranged to leave the schooner at anchor at Wanderer Bay in charge of Mr. Svensen's mate until our return.

We therefore started the following morning, November 14th, at daylight, in a boat and one canoe for the village of Veuvu close to Cape Hunter. The party consisted of myself, Mr. Svensen, two white men of Mr. Svensen's crew, two of my native police, five San Christoval natives in Mr. Svensen's employment, with the chief Pauro and one of his men.

We reached Veuvu about 9 o'clock, and rested about two hours for breakfast and to arrange the loads each was to carry.

The boat and canoe were left here until our return in care of the local chief Baumat.

A message was sent to a native who was said to know the mountain district well, as he had been in the habit of going there to hunt for opossums (cuscus). He arrived after some delay, having been summoned from his garden, and expressed his readiness to accompany us.

Leaving Veuvu about 11 o'clock, we climbed by a very steep track to the top of the spur forming the point of Cape Hunter, from which we had an equally steep descent to the mouth of the Ithina river on the east side of Cape Hunter.

The view as we descended the eastern slope of the Cape Hunter spur was remarkable. To the eastward stretched a long straight pebble beach of about four miles in extent, strewn with a regular streak of what, from our elevation, looked like match-wood or small white sticks, but which, on a closer examination, proved to be the trunks of enormous trees, evidently carried down by the Ithina River in flood time, and washed up for miles upon the beach by the action of the surf.

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Some of these trees must have been quite six feet in diameter, and nearly a hundred feet long. The Ithina is, perhaps, the largest river on the south coast of Guadalcanar, and drains the whole of the district which it was our fortune afterwards to visit, its head waters coming from the southern slopes of the Kavo range. It has numerous tributaries, some of which we crossed, and the volume of water carried by it must, in times of heavy rain, be something enormous, as we noticed flood marks many feet above the levels at which we were fortunate enough to cross them.

The exit of the river is through a gap in the pebble beach, which probably shifts during the S.E. and N.W. seasons.

Inside the beach is a large fresh water lagoon, said by the natives to be infested with sharks and crocodiles.

We found a few fishing huts at the mouth of the river, and the natives ferried our party over one at a time in two very crazy and leaky canoes. The passage of the whole party occupied nearly an hour, and we then continued our walk to the eastward along the beach for about three miles to some native huts, just short of the village of Bolonda.

Here we stopped for the night, the natives supplying us with a pig and some roots of taro, upon which our people feasted.

The following morning, November 15th, we started at daylight, and reached Bolonda soon after six.

We had been here joined, temporarily, by three or four other natives, and, shortly before reaching Bolonda, one of them drew my attention to some large boulders of clayey sandstone on the beach, in which he pointed out a narrow seam of what was, apparently, coal. He told me that it would burn like the fuel used on board steamers. I determined to test it on our return, but unfortunately the boulder in question had been then broken up by the action of the surf, and, although I picked up two or three lumps of a black coal-like looking stone, I was unable to get them to burn in a fire. The occurrence of coal in this locality has been already reported.*

The village of Bolonda, although at one time an important place, we found entirely, but evidently only recently, deserted; and we were told that the natives had moved some distance inland.

From here we struck into the bush. Following a very steep and rocky track in a north-easterly direction, we came in about two miles to the village of Warigalia, where we halted for breakfast.

* I have since ascertained from Mr. T. H. Switzer, at present master of the labour schooner "Sybil," that he made a report of the occurrence of coal in this locality. He informs me that some samples brought to him by natives living at the mouth of the Ithina River burnt readily upon the application of a match.

Here our opossum-hunting guide, whom we had obtained from Veuvu, said he could go no further, as he was sick.

He was accordingly left behind, but, through Pauro's influence, we obtained two other men, one of whom remained with us until our return.

From this village we had a fine view westward over the estuary of the Ithina towards Cape Hunter and the land towards Wanderer Bay.

Leaving Warigalia we proceeded in a northerly direction, the land rising all the time to a height of 1,600 feet, until we came to a sharp descent of about 500 feet leading down to the Kolondoma River, a tributary of the Ithina, running to the westward through a rocky gorge to the westward.

[NOTE.—The prefix "Kolo" is frequently met with applied to the names of rivers in the interior of Guadalcanar. I met with many such instances during my previous trips in the mountains from Aola during the years 1886 to 1888, and from a bush tribe living near the head waters of the Kobua River I obtained the information that it signified "water." I am not aware that it is so used at present by any of the coast people, but it also occurs as a compound word in the language of Rubiana, where the natives told me the word for "salt water" was "Kolohokara," "fresh water" being "lena," and there is a small island in the Rubiana lagoon containing a well of fresh water which is known as "Kolohiti."]

This we had to cross and re-cross three or four times, but as the water was low it presented no great difficulty; and then we struck into a very steep native track leading up a spur trending in a northerly direction. Foot holes were cut in the rock, and rattans were placed in position to aid the ascent, but they were in very bad condition and the track seemed to be very little used.

At about noon we halted at a height of 2,500 feet for lunch. Already we had begun to enter the region of ferns and moss. The stems of the trees and the ground were covered with a luxuriant mossy growth, but not so dense as we afterwards met with. I noticed many terrestrial orchids of several species, but nothing of a striking nature. Here, too, I met with a beautiful foliage plant, "anectochilus" sp., which has already been recorded from elsewhere upon Guadalcanar. Everything was moist and spongy, and rain now set in, continuing all the afternoon. We arrived, about 3 p.m., at the so-called village of Rambubu. This consisted of two huts, and appeared to be only used by natives when cultivating some rather fertile taro gardens in the vicinity.

Here we found about eight natives, men and women, who did not appear to be best pleased to see us, and at first sulked persistently; but Pauro having told them that we had come to stay,

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and that one of the huts must be given up to us, for which they would be well paid, they eventually relaxed, and provided our boys with some most excellent taro.

The rain continued to descend in torrents, and we were all in a state of greater or less discomfort. The temperature was quite chilly, the thermometer being down to 70°. The aneroid gave the altitude about 2,700 feet.

About five o'clock the rain fortunately ceased, and we were able to inspect our surroundings. We had a fine view of the mountains to the westward as far as the western part of the island, whilst on our right the sharp peak of Legombi was very conspicuous.

Immediately in front of us, but far below, was the gorge of the Teremalenga River, a tributary of the Ithina, taking its origin at the foot of the high mountain of Popomanasiu, from which it came through a deep rocky cleft by a fine fall of perhaps 400 feet.

From Legombi, on our right, the mountains shut us in in a horse-shoe formation as far as north-east. The names of the peaks and their bearings from Rambubu being as follows:—Legombi, 112°; Kuruvembau, 74°; Popomanasiu, 65°; Bulamarau, 56°; Paguruguru, 43°; and Tasambara, 34°.

The high range of Kavo was hidden behind Popomanasiu.

Of these Popomanasiu was certainly the highest, and it lay in the direction of the Kavo range. We thought it probable that we might find a saddle connecting it on the north side with the Kavo range, as appears to be the case from a distant view taken from the north side of the island. In this hope, however, we were mistaken.

The top of this mountain has two low summits, which, from some fanciful resemblance to inverted coco-nut shells, have earned the mountain its name, which means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes refer to it as Siumanapopo, which, of course, means "the drinking cup and the food bowl." This mountain, then, we decided to climb the following day.

The people of Rambubu having cleared out the larger of the two huts for our accommodation, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Shortly before dark a young native arrived from the village of Taringa, situated on the opposite side of the Teremalenga gorge. He had been summoned by signals blown on conch shells after our arrival at Rambubu, and was said to have a good knowledge of the mountains. The spears carried by these bush natives are short and stout, about 7 feet in length, and are used as aids in climbing as well as for purposes of offence.

Next morning, November 16th, leaving the two white men and some of our natives at Rambubu, Mr. Svensen and I, with nine natives, continued on towards Popomanasiu.

From the village we had first a very steep descent of 1,100 feet to the crossing of the Teremalenga River, which we forded just above a fine waterfall named Namugade.

Fortunately the river was comparatively low. Ropes of rattan were stretched from side to side to assist people in crossing, which afforded a none too secure hold. The river was encumbered with large boulders over which the water broke, making it difficult to know where to place one's feet, and, just below, the waterfall was waiting ready for anyone who might get into difficulties. I considered that I was fortunate in getting over without getting my instruments wet.

From the river we rose again, equally steeply, through some patches of taro cultivation. The slopes on which the taro was planted are so steep that they had to bank the soil up with stones and trunks of trees to prevent it washing away.

At one place the track passed under a waterfall, which shot out clear several feet from the face of the cliff from which it fell.

About ten o'clock we met some natives of the village of Taringa working in their gardens, and made a short halt on the slope of Paiguruguru, at an altitude of 2,400 feet.

Proceeding on again, we followed a track leading in an easterly direction on to a spur, which brought us to the top of Paiguruguru at an altitude of 4,400 feet.

At this altitude it was already pleasantly cool, the thermometer standing at 68°, and walking was rendered much pleasanter. We were now in a district where probably it rains every day in the year. The trunks and boughs of the trees were festooned with long trails of moss and lichen, while the ground was simply carpeted with the most beautiful ferns and mosses, into which one sank to the knees as into a sponge.

Here I noticed for the first time a singular climbing bamboo with a habit of growth like a rattan cane. I believe a similar species, probably identical, has been noticed in British New Guinea. I noticed, among the roots of the trees, some large holes, evidently used by some animal, and was told by our natives that they were the holes of the gigantic bush rat, "*mus imperator*," a species discovered by me some years ago, and, so far as is known, peculiar to this island. It is the largest species of rat known. A male specimen, now in the Natural History Museum, measured from head to point of tail within a fraction of two feet long. I was told that the natives come here occasionally to hunt for them with dogs. The track which up to mid-day had been moderately well defined, now became rather uncertain, but we continued along the ridge in an easterly and north-easterly direction, descending slightly. We were evidently on the saddle joining Paiguruguru and Bulamarau, but the bush was too thick to get a bearing of any value.

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During the afternoon, we had two hours rain, and we were all thoroughly well drenched when we decided to camp about 5 p.m., on the top of the saddle, and just at the base of what we, at the time, supposed was Popomanasiu, but which we found out afterwards was Bulamarau.

Just before we reached the camping place, my attention was directed by the natives to some seedlings of a species of *dacrydium* resembling the Norfolk Island pine. The roots were growing in the mossy carpet where the seeds had fallen, and had not yet reached the soil. The native name is "tumbolu." I found, by searching, some mature trees, but was unable to find the fruit cone. I was fortunate enough to establish some of these seedlings in pots after my return, and two of them reached the Botanical Gardens in Sydney in good condition. I also noticed several specimens of an extremely handsome palm growing, with a straight stem, to a height of about 60 feet. The roots were partly aerial, and reminded me of the Fijian species *kentia exoriza*. It was probably a *kentia* or *areca*, but I was unable to procure seeds in ripe condition.

Two huts roofed with tree fern and other leaves were quickly constructed, and having made fires and cooked some rice and tinned meat for the party, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Fortunately there was neither rain nor wind, and a fairly comfortable night was passed, there being nothing to disturb us but the incessant croaking of the frogs, the murmur of the stream near which we had camped, and other innumerable and inexplicable noises always to be heard on even the stillest night in the bush.

Close to our huts I had noticed two strange looking cylindrical holes in the ground. These were about three feet in diameter, and about the same in depth. The natives told me they were the holes made by wild dogs, and that a pack of about sixty used formerly to frequent the mountain. They were said to hunt in company, and had been known to attack and kill men. Some time ago the natives organised a hunting party and either killed or dispersed them. I afterwards came upon more of these dog holes, some of which were enlarged at the bottom like an inverted funnel. The following morning, November 17th, as soon as we had had breakfast, Mr. Svensen and myself with two natives started for the top of Popomanasiu, which we believed we could reach in an hour, leaving the remainder of the party in camp. There was no track, but the bush was a little less dense, but still covered with the growth of moss, if possible thicker than what we had passed through the day before.

We had not gone far when we discovered that we were upon the mountain of Bulamarau, and not, as we supposed, upon Popomanasiu, so we sent back one of the natives we had with us to bring on the party we had left in camp.

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Before they overtook us, we reached the top of Balumarau, which I made by aneroid to be a little over 5,000 feet, the thermometer at 9 a.m. standing at 64°, and the air being particularly dry and bracing, while the moss-covered trees were less like sponges. It is probable that the actual summits of these mountains do not receive so much rain as their slopes. It is a common thing, from a distance, to see the peaks clear and clouds enveloping the slopes.

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While resting on the rocky top of the mountain, the rest of our followers joined us. We at once continued our route, following the top of the razor back connecting Bulamarau and Popopanasu, which now towered right above us, and commenced the ascent.

There was, of course, no track, and walking was very difficult on account of the network of climbing bamboos and interlacing tree roots through which we had to cut or force a way.

I noticed some extremely pretty orchids, both terrestrial and epiphytcal, one especially of a mauve colour growing on the branches of low trees. Some of these I successfully transported to Sydney.

After a hard day's work we reached the highest point we could see about 3 p.m., but as the trees, although not high, were very thick, we were unable to get an extended view of our surroundings. We accordingly directed our boys to make a clearing on the top of the mountain, in order to get a better idea of our position. Unfortunately, about 3.30, down came the rain again, and we were once more enveloped in mist and clouds.

We worked away, however, cutting trees until 5 o'clock, and then the natives set about building huts for the night, the rain having gradually ceased.

As the clouds rolled away from the slopes to the north of us, we at last began to get an idea of our position.

Immediately at our feet the mountain dropped steeply down for a distance of probably 3,000 feet to the valley of the Ithina River, and rose again on the opposite side to the great Kavo range, which is undoubtedly the highest point on Guadalcanar.

The long ridge of the top, stretching to the westward, appeared quite close to us and was probably not more than three miles distant in a direct line, but the descent from our position, and ascent again on the other side to reach the range, through bush where every step would have to be cut, would have taken us at least two days' work. I took notice of two or three leading spurs on the opposite side of the valley by which the top of the range might have been reached, but I was disappointed in not finding any sort of a saddle connecting Popomanasiu with the Kavo range.

Through a small depression in the top of the range I was fortunate enough to get a bearing of the top of the island of Savo,

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distant 40 miles, which bore 336° from our position, and by climbing a low tree I was able to see the Russell Island Archipelago, the central point bearing 299° , the islands of which appeared with all the distinctness of a map, although they were distant more than 60 miles.

The eastern peak of the Kavo range bore 12° , east of that everything was shrouded in mist; and I was disappointed in not getting any view of the islands of Gela or Malaita, or even of the conspicuous rocky peak of the Lion's Head, which I knew could not be more than a very few miles distant. Behind us to the S.E. and S. everything was shut out from view by the thick bush.

While the natives were preparing food I boiled the thermometer, and found that we were at an altitude of very nearly 6,000 feet.

After dinner we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night, although we were all wet through, and I was shivering with cold, the thermometer being down to 59° .

Fortunately there was no rain during the night, and the atmosphere was so still that a candle would have burnt unprotected. In the morning we all felt equal to another day's climbing, but now the food difficulty stood in our way. We had economised as much as possible, but we had now been away from the ship four days, and we expected to have been back again in that time.

For breakfast there was half a biscuit, and a cup of weak soup made of a handful of rice and the rinsings of the tins, per man.

We then considered what was to be done. We had only partly attained our object. Pauro, the old chief who had accompanied us from Wanderer Bay, said to me in excellent Fijian, "Never mind Sir, day or night, food or no food, if you say we are to go to Kavo we will go." Having taken everything into consideration, however, Mr. Svensen and I decided to return. Before starting we cut down a few more trees to see if we could get a more extended view, but the clouds, as before, shrouded everything to the east of north. To the westward it was clear and we got bearings of the peaks above Tiaro and Veisali, but even the Kavo range was this morning shrouded in cloud. We found now that we were not exactly on the top of Popomanasiu, but that the actual summit was about a quarter of a mile eastward and perhaps 300 feet higher than our position, but we decided that with a long day's work before us, it was not worth while to go any further. So, about seven o'clock, we began the return journey. We returned the way we came, and not having now to cut our track we, of course, made better progress.

We reached our previous camping place about 11 o'clock, and from there sent on one of the natives to meet us at the crossing

of the Teremalenga River with some cooked native food. About noon the rain came down again in torrents, and we reached the river in such a state that it made no difference whether we got wetter or not. We had some difficulty in crossing, as the river had risen about two feet since our previous passage, and was still rising. By the aid of the rattan ropes we at last all got over, and then fell upon the meal of cooked taro which had been prepared for us, and which we sorely needed. The climb of 1,100 feet up to the village of Rambubu was not the least fatiguing part of the day's work, but we reached the village at last, about five o'clock, where we found the two white men somewhat anxiously awaiting our return.

They told us that it had hardly ceased raining since we left, so that we might consider that we had been somewhat fortunate.

Dry clothes and a comparatively sound roof made life appear worth living once more, and although there was quite a brisk stream of water running through the centre of the house, and the leaves upon which we had to sleep were more or less saturated with wet, we contrived to get a good night.

The natives of Rambubu were now extremely friendly. They had supplied our people with food during our absence, and upon our return produced a pig and a quantity of taro for our party.

At daylight the following morning we paid off our mountain guides and the people of Rambubu for entertaining us.

One of the guides had accidentally left a large knife behind, but volunteered to go back and fetch it a distance of four miles. This we would not allow him to do, telling him that he might keep it as part of his pay.

The pay consisted of axes, knives, the blankets we had slept in, porpoise teeth, and a small quantity of tobacco, and was on such a lavish scale from these poor people's point of view, that not only did they express entire satisfaction, a very rare thing to meet with among natives, but they invited us to come again, and said that they would do everything they could for us.

We left them in the best of spirits about eight o'clock and, in drenching rain, continued our return journey to the coast.

We walked all the morning through the most pitiless rain, and about noon reached the crossings of the Kolondoma River. The river had risen considerably since our former crossing, and we had some difficulty in getting over, the passage of the whole party occupying nearly an hour, but we eventually succeeded without damage to anything of value.

We reached Warigalia during the afternoon, where we found the man we had left sick most miraculously cured.

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We paid off the two men we had taken from this [place], and after a short rest continued down to the coast, reaching the huts where we had slept on our way up shortly before dark.

A large number of coast natives had assembled here to see us and hear our adventures.

After some persuasion a good supply of native food and a pig was produced, and the boys again feasted royally. We resumed our march at daylight the next morning, and I availed myself of the delay occasioned by our crossing of the mouth of the Ithina River to take a round of compass bearings to all visible points.

We arrived at the village of Veuvu about 11 o'clock. I had not seen Baumate, the chief of this village, on our way up, but another man, who bore a most striking resemblance to him and might have been his twin brother, had been put forward to personate him.

The reason I believe to have been that he knew that a complaint had been made to me against him of a desire on his part to take heads from some villages further along the coast. The matter appeared to have been amicably arranged. We found the old man in his house suffering from a very bad cut in the knee, which he had accidentally inflicted upon himself with an axe.

The wound, having been neglected, was in a very bad state. We made one of his women thoroughly cleanse it with hot water, and Mr. Svensen then dressed it with iodoform, and left some with him for future use. He seemed extremely grateful for the attention, and I have since heard he has quite recovered.

We then launched our boat and canoe, and reached Wanderer Bay late in the afternoon, having been absent from the ship just a week.

The behaviour of the old chief Pauro of Wanderer Bay was, throughout our expedition, above all praise, and it was undoubtedly due to his influence and presence that we found the bush natives so civil. He had previously worked in Fiji many years ago, and told me that he had been stolen, his canoe having been broken up by the ship that took him. His assistance would be extremely valuable and almost indispensable in the event of another attempt being made to reach the Kavo range from the south side of the island; but I think, and have always thought, that Kavo would be more easily reached from the north coast.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to Rear Admiral Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S., Hydrographer to the Admiralty, containing such topographical data as I made during the trip. The maps therein referred to I have not herewith enclosed.

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Government Residence, Tulagi,
British Solomon Islands,

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31st March 1899.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM WHARTON,

I send you herewith, in the hope that they may prove interesting, a few observations that I made during a trip in November last year to the mountains of Guadalcanar. I also enclose a map and some profile tracings.

You will see that my information differs almost entirely from what is given on the chart. The southern coast of Guadalcanar is certainly all wrong, but you may be able to evolve some sort of order out of chaos and reconcile the apparently opposed data.

I undertook the expedition with the object of climbing Mount Lammas; but although you will see that I climbed a mountain very close to the position given to Mount Lammas on the chart, I could not find it or see any mountain 2,000 feet higher than the peak I reached (as Mount Lammas should have been) except the Kavo range.

I have planned out my route on a tracing of the large plan of Guadalcanar, disregarding all previous information, and also another track on a larger scale; these I enclose with the others.

The highest mountain on Guadalcanar, and by far the most conspicuous from the north side, is the long down-shaped Kavo range, which has never yet appeared upon the chart at all.

My idea of the actual facts is this: I assume and believe the Lion's Head, Tatuve, of the Austrian expedition of 1896, to be pretty nearly in its proper position. The high peak south of it, called in the present chart Popomanisao, and assumed to be about 7,000 feet (I am responsible for both the name and the height, the former I obtained from the Aola natives in 1887 and I estimated the latter), is, I believe, the Mount Lammas of Shortland and Denham. It should appear, perhaps, about two miles further south than it is represented. It seems to be connected with the Lion's Head by a saddle. A glance at the profile sketch No. 3 will show you at once that there is no other high mountain visible from Tulagi between that peak and the Kavo range except the peak I ascended. The name of Popomanasao must come out. It is not the name of the high peak south of the Lion's Head but of the peak I climbed. The correct spelling would be *Popomanasiu*, and means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes call it Siumanapopo,

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which, of course, means "the drinking cup and the food bowl." The origin of the name arises from the fact that the mountain has two twin summits like inverted coco-nut shells.

You will have to alter the upper course of the Balesuna River more to the westward, as it evidently comes down from the eastern and north-eastern slopes of the Kavo range. The eastern branches of the Ithina River are pretty correctly defined upon my route plan, but there are probably more affluents on the right bank. The volume of water discharged by this river during heavy floods must be very great, as evidenced by the enormous trees that strew the beach from Cape Hunter to Bolonda.

I do not know who gave the information about the occurrence of coal near the mouth of the Ithina River, but it is doubtless there. The natives pointed it out to me close to the village of Bolonda. The vein was only about an inch thick, and was in a large boulder of clayey sandstone which had dropped down to the beach from the land above. On our return the boulder in question had been broken up by the surf, and the only likely-looking specimens I could find in the neighbourhood resisted the action of a hot wood fire for twenty minutes without change. The natives told me that the stuff they pointed out to me *did* burn like the coal used on board steamers.

The composition of the Popomanasiu range appears to be a very hard dark rock, apparently basalt.

I append the observations I made for determining the height of Popomanasiu. The aneroid shews the greater altitude than the thermometer, but the latter is, of course, far more accurate.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

Rear Admiral

Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S.,

&c., &c., &c.,

The Admiralty, London.

COMPASS BEARINGS taken during visit to the PEAK of
POPOMANASIU in the ISLAND of GUADALCANAR, SOLOMON
ISLANDS, in November 1898.

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Bearings from mouth of Ithina River:—

	Deg
Rock outside Cape Hunter	229
Cape Henslow	90
A nearer point of land	89.30
Visu Point (distant 11 miles)	86
Bolonda Point and village	69.30
Legombi Mt.	66
Kuruvembau Mt.	62
Vatuvisa Mt.	60
Popomanasiu Mt.	56.30
Bulamarau Mt.	53
Tasebara Mt.	50.30
Paiguruguru Mt.	49.30

Rough bearing, centre of Kavo range from
Cape Hunter... .. 25

Bearings from village of Rambubu:—

Legombi Mt.	113
Kuruvembau Mt.	75.30
Popomanasiu Mt.	65.30
Bulamarau Mt.	52.30
Paiguruguru Mt.	42
Tasambara Mt.	34
Centre of high saddle behind Wanderer Bay	274

Bearings from Popomanasiu Mt.:—

Kavo (eastern peak of range)	12
„ (another peak of range)	348
Top of Savo Island, through depression in Kavo range	336
Centre of Russell Island	299
Lower conical hill behind Tiaro (Yarrow Bay of chart)	297
Upper conical hill, behind Tiaro	307
Peak behind Vaturanga (Coughlan Har- bour of chart)	312
Sharp cone behind Veisali	317

Bearings taken at sea close to Tree Cay (an
island off West Cape, Guadalcanar):—

A high distant peak, probably Mt. Lammas of Shortland and Hunter	105
Centre of Kavo range	99

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Bearings from Government Residence, Tulagi:—	Deg.
Lion's Head (Tatuve)	168
Mount Lammas (?)	169.30
Popomanasiu (the peak I climbed) ...	177
Eastern peak of Kavo range	177.30

Names of rivers:—Ithina, Kolondoma, Teremalenga, and Kolovaravara.

Names of villages:—Bolonda, Warigalia, Rambubu or Rambumbu.

Thermometer (Royal Geographical Society's No. 8):—

	Deg.
In shade at sea level, Bolonda	75
In shade at top of Popomanasiu	59

Aneroid (Royal Geographical Society's No. 32):—

At sea level at Bolonda	29.80
At top of Popomanasiu	23.95

Boiling point, thermometer at top of Popomanasiu:—

Royal Geographical Society's No. 19 ...	201.9
" " No. 20 ...	201.9
Aneroid at halting place between village of Warigalia and Kolondoma River	28.25
Aneroid at halting place between Kolonda River and village of Rambubu	27.32
Aneroid at Rambubu	27.20
Aneroid crossing top of Paiguruguru	25.57
Aneroid at camp, foot of Bulamarau	25.60
Aneroid at top of Bulamarau	24.80
Aneroid at top of Popomanasiu	23.95

BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING
PRINTED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 320.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-9, see No. 275.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
April 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
298	Bahamas	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues ...	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago ...	"
304	Straits Settlements...	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	1899-1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Rasutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	"
315	Southern Nigeria	1899-1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Islands	1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

No. 320.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS.
1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-9, see No. 275.)

SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji,
31st December, 1900.

SIR

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a Report by Mr. C. M. Woodford, the Resident Commissioner, on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the year 1899-1900.

I have, &c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
GENERAL REPORT FROM 1st APRIL, 1899,
TO 31st MARCH, 1900.

Government Residence, Tulagi,
British Solomon Islands,
1st November, 1900.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward my report upon the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the twelve months expiring 31st March, 1900.

I have to express my regret at not having been able to present it at an earlier date, but from the middle of March to the middle of May I was occupied with the expedition of the Pacific Islands Company, Limited, in examining the land which the company propose to lease from the Government.

In May I proceeded to Sydney on leave, but was engaged nearly the whole time upon the business of the Pacific Islands Company and other Government business.

Early in July I went from Sydney to Cairns to join H.M.S. "Torch," and until the end of August I was engaged on board that ship in proclaiming the British Protectorate over the islands ceded by Germany under the Convention of November 14th, 1899.

On my return to Tulagi I was occupied all September and October in overtaking arrears of work.

The Report is consequently a brief one, and I hesitated at first to forward it after such a length of time, but I have decided to do so, as it shows a record of material progress under every head.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

His Excellency,

SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN, K.C.M.G.,

Etc., etc., etc.,

High Commissioner, Western Pacific.

REPORT.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

1. The British Solomon Islands Protectorate, which in 1898 was increased by the inclusion of Santa Cruz, Vanicoro, and other islands, was again added to in 1899 by the renunciation by Germany in favour of Great Britain of her rights over the islands of Choiseul, Ysabel, the islands in Bougainville Straits, and Lord Howe's Group.

The Convention was dated 14th November, 1899, but up to the end of March, 1900, no official communication had reached Tulagi upon the subject; consequently the islands in question are not referred to in the present Report.

2.—WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The number of these remains about the same as at the date of my previous Report, and may be taken to be about 60.

3. MORTALITY AND SICKNESS.

Three deaths only have to be reported among the white and other foreign residents. Two of these were due to natural causes (in one case accelerated by intemperate habits), and the third was a case of accidental drowning.

I have again the satisfaction, for the second year in succession, to report that no death due to attack by natives has occurred.

It is believed that, previous to last year, no year for the last thirty years has passed without one or more white men losing their lives at the hands of natives in what is now the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

An epidemic of measles, of an extremely mild type, prevailed among the native population about the beginning of the year 1900. It is believed to have been introduced by returning labourers from Queensland. No deaths were reported.

Nearly the whole of the men employed at the Government stations at Tulagi and Gizo took it. In every case they returned to work of their own accord on the fourth or fifth day after feeling ill.

4.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue again shows a substantial and steady increase over the revenue for the previous twelve months, and there is every reason to suppose that the increase will be maintained during the coming year.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

During the year the Protectorate received a grant from Imperial funds for the purposes of purchasing and maintaining a vessel for patrol work, the formation of a second Government station at the western end of the Protectorate, salary of magistrate for the western division, and the equipment and payment of an increased police force. The amount of the grant in question was £2,500. This accounts for the relatively large expenditure shown for the year.

On an establishment similar to that at present existing the Protectorate should in future be self-supporting.

Statement.

Period.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st April 1897 to 31st March 1898 ...	957 3 11	1,933 2 0
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899 ...	1,257 7 10	1,030 1 8
1st April 1899 to 31st March 1900 ...	1,454 1 6	3,120 2 9

	£ s. d.
Cash in Bank of New Zealand, 31st March 1900.	1,282 13 4
Cash in safe	136 12 2
	£1,419 5 6
Less amount due to deceased estates ...	129 17 9
Protectorate funds in hand, 31st March 1900.	<u>£1,289 7 9</u>

5.— TRADE.—EXPORTS.

Estimated value, £21,381.

The volume of trade shows a satisfactory increase for the year. The value of the exports, owing to the increased amount of valuable pearl shell exported, compares very favourably with the result of previous years.

Copra, the chief article of export, shows a slight increase, and the price has been satisfactory.

Ivory nuts have again been unsaleable, but inquiries have recently been made for them, and a demand for them may at any time spring up.

The export of pearl shell has nearly doubled, and the increase has been in the more valuable gold-edged quality. This has been in consequence of the systematic use of diving gear, without which it is impossible to obtain this more valuable shell. The black-edged shell, which occurs in shallower water, is obtained by the natives themselves, and the quantity exported remains about the same as before.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

The quantity of turtle shell and beche-de-mer exported remains steady.

A demand for the shell commercially known as "green snail" has arisen during the past year, and a considerable quantity of it has been exported. It occurs in water from one to three fathoms in depth, and is all obtained by the natives. It is a thick, heavy shell, and is used for making buttons and for ornamental purposes. It has been long known in commerce, but has never before been shipped from the Solomons. Possibly some passing fashion in ladies' dress has created the present demand. Should the demand continue, the shell occurs plentifully in most parts of the Protectorate.

For tabulated statement of exports, see the following page.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900

TABLE showing AMOUNT OF EXPORTS from the BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, PROTECTORATE for the LAST FIVE YEARS. FIGURES are APPROXIMATE ONLY, but are not OVERSTATED.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Beche-de-Mer.	Green Snail Shell.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Oil.	Plants.
1895	Tons. 1,200	Tons. 586	Tons. Cwts. 6 10	Lbs. 891	Tons. Cwts. 7 18	Tons. Cwts. —	Bundles. —	Bags. —	Bags. —	Cask. —	Cases. —
1896	1,383	600	8 9½	1,379	3 15	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st January 1897 to 31st March 1898 (15 Months).	1,688	580	8 3¼	3,149	5 10	—	290	129	7	—	23
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899.	1,456	85	8 15½	3,133¼	4 6¾	—	—	5	2	—	6
1st April 1899 to 31st March 1900.	1,661	20	15 17¾	3,238	5 9¾	31 6¼	—	20	1 box	1	4

6.—IMPORTS.

Little or no change has taken place in the character of the imports, of which tobacco continues to hold the foremost place. The demand for boats among the natives continues in an increasing degree. As they are consequently obliged to make an increased quantity of copra in order to pay for them, the demand may be considered a healthy one.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

7.—LABOUR TRADE.

During the period under review the Protectorate was visited by eight labour vessels from Queensland, one from Fiji and one from New Caledonia.

Of the Queensland ships, one made four trips during the year, two made three trips, four made two trips, and one made one trip, or a total of 19 voyages in all. The Fiji ship made one trip, and the ship from New Caledonia, being refused permission to recruit, was engaged in returning labourers only.

The numbers recruited were approximately 850 for Queensland and 90 for Fiji. The numbers returned were about 500 from Queensland and Fiji together and 54 from New Caledonia.

No reports of firing on recruiting vessels were received at the Government station during the year.

The Queensland immigration agent in his annual report for 1899 says that recruiting in the Solomons is now much safer than it used to be.

All Queensland ships are rigidly searched for concealed arms and ammunition before leaving Queensland and in some cases again at Tulagi, but in spite of all precautions it is known that some small quantities are got through without detection. This is effected with the connivance and assistance of the native boat's crew. Various places of concealment are chosen, such as the bunts of the sails, the galley funnel, and lastly the water tanks.

One such case was discovered during the year and the offender was punished by fine and imprisonment.

During the coming year the islands in the vicinity of Santa Cruz will be patrolled by Her Majesty's ships of war, no less than three having orders to visit this part of the Protectorate.

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SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899—1900.

An increased local demand for labourers is now becoming felt in the Protectorate itself, as some of the traders are turning their attention to coco-nut and other planting. The demand is likely to be an increasing one.

8.—SHIPPING.

The local trading vessels remain much the same as during the previous year, but, as usual, some of them have changed owners.

The steam service with Sydney has been far from satisfactory as the steamer has called at irregular dates, thus causing much loss of time and business to the traders who have in some cases remained idle as long as a month at a time waiting for the steamer.

A better service and regular time is now promised, and it is to be hoped that the promise may be carried out.

9.—AGRICULTURE.

A marked increase in the area of land under cultivation is to be reported during the twelve months under notice.

Mr. Svensen has largely increased his plantations of coconuts at Aola, and Mr. Wheatley, at Rubiana, has a considerable area already planted, and is increasing it.

As a proof that outside attention is being directed to the Protectorate as a field for tropical agriculture, I receive, I may say, by every mail, letters of enquiry from persons wishing to embark in coffee, coconut, ramie-fibre, and sugar planting.

A Regulation for the lease or sale of land for planting purposes is urgently required, and it is to be hoped that the Regulation now in preparation will shortly be issued.

10.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Nothing unusual in the way of weather is to be reported.

During the north-west monsoon season (from November to March) the weather was occasionally very bad, with strong winds and heavy sea; but having now spent four seasons in the Protectorate I am beginning to think that the accounts given of the force of the north-westerns have been somewhat exaggerated.

A table of the rainfall registered at the Government station is appended.

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1899-1900.

I have always considered the average annual rainfall at sea level to be about 150 inches.

My opinion is founded upon my observations at Tulagi during 1898 and 1899, and upon observations taken at Santa Anna and Ugi in 1883.

The year 1900 began fairly well, but at the time of writing (November) we are nearly 80 inches short of the average for the year.

It would be interesting to ascertain if a similar shortage has been experienced in Fiji, New Caledonia, or Australia.

Rainfall during 1883:—

—				Inches.
At Santa Anna	...	...	...	125·03
At Ugi	...	...	...	146·24

For observations of rainfall at Government Station at Tulagi, see next page.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL AT GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI.

	1897.			1898.			1899.			1900.		
	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.
January	...	—	—	9.51	18	1.98	14.27	27	2.42	12.20	—	—
February	...	—	—	28.55	21	3.72	12.04	19	3.45	3.09	16	1.04
March	...	—	—	27.89	22	4.93	17.47	20	4.15	13.48	12	2.36
April	...	—	—	6.67	19	1.85	20.48	26	3.37	2.29	9	.69
May...	...	—	—	4.19	18	1.02	8.85	17	3.64	5.83	18	.88
June	...	—	—	4.86	15	.87	1.26	12	.29	3.20	5	2.19
July	...	—	—	4.86	23	1.11	24.27	24	9.98	3.24	16	.75
August	...	—	—	9.94	24	2.89	8.33	—	—	3.01	3	1.51
September	...	—	—	10.58	18	2.70	10.92	—	1.78	5.41	10	1.86
October	...	8	1.17	10.23	18	2.76	11.21	23	2.24	9.12	15	2.2
November	...	17	1.17	21.14	22	4.50	7.89	20	1.36	—	—	—
December	...	18	1.98	8.97	22	1.41	19.03	19	2.35	—	—	—
Total	19.60	43	—	147.39	240	—	156.02	?	—	—	—	—

NOTE.—The figures for the year 1900 in italic are given only for the sake of supplying the latest information and do not refer to the present Report.

11. WORK AT THE GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

No new buildings have been erected during the year, but all existing works remain in good repair. A constant war has, however, to be waged against the white ants.

The landing-stage will have to be renewed before long, as the sea worm (*Cerato*) has eaten into the piles. This was to have been expected.

About half the swamp near the landing-place has been filled in, and the work will be completed when men can be spared for the purpose.

The area of land planted with coconuts, which stood at 7 acres on 31st March, 1899, was increased to 47 acres by the 31st March, 1900, and at the date of writing to 55 acres. By the end of the present year the area under coconuts will be still further extended.

No fresh plantations of food have been made. The existing plantations are giving good returns in the way of sweet potatoes, bananas and pineapples.

A supply of Arabian coffee seed is now available for distribution to persons wishing to plant. The trees are perfectly healthy, and there are no signs of leaf disease.

The plantation of cocoa has not succeeded so well as I could have wished.

The total area under cultivation at Tulagi at the end of March may be set down at about 100 acres.

12.—VISITS OF WAR SHIPS.

For the second year in succession the "Mohawk" was detailed for duty in the Protectorate. During her cruise she visited nearly all the trading and mission stations, and towards the latter part of the season proceeded to Santa Cruz, in consequence of reported cases of illegal recruiting and trading in arms and ammunition by French vessels from New Caledonia.

I visited the western portion of the Protectorate in the "Mohawk," and with Commander Freeman's assistance selected a site for a new Government Station at Gizo Harbour.

13.—NEW GOVERNMENT STATION AT GIZO.

With a view to the suppression of head-hunting raids made by the natives of the New Georgia Group and adjacent islands upon the natives of Choiseul and Ysabel, I received instructions to establish a second Government Station somewhere in the western part of the Protectorate,

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

The place selected was Gizo. The site is elevated and healthy, centrally situated for observation, and possesses in addition one of the best harbours in the Protectorate.

Early in November I left Tulagi with a party of natives for Gizo and commenced clearing the site. Towards the end of the month the materials for the residence and gaol, and a carpenter for the work, arrived from Sydney by the S.S. "Moresby."

Shortly before Christmas the station was handed over to Mr. Mahaffy and all was completed by the end of January, when the carpenter left.

The works consist of a residence and gaol, two houses of native material for Police quarters, and a boat and canoe house, also of native material.

A considerable area of land has been already planted and more is being cleared.

There is a good quantity of old coco-nut trees growing on the land from which a substantial return in the way of copra should be received.

The supply of water from the roof of the house and gaol has been found sufficient for all requirements, but there is an abundant natural supply within a quarter of a mile.

14.—GOVERNMENT VESSEL.

A sailing vessel for patrol work was purchased during the year. She is ketch rigged and measures about 33 tons yacht measurement.

The convenience of having a vessel is inestimable.

So far as a sailing vessel can, in a place where calms prevail to such an extent as in the Solomon Island Protectorate, she has performed all that was to be expected of her.

Since her arrival from Sydney at the end of October she has travelled some thousands of miles upon Government work. Her best day's work has been 215 miles in 25 hours. There have, on the other hand, been calms for days in succession, when she has been able to accomplish nothing. She is furnished with eight 20 feet sweeps, by the aid of which she can move in a calm at the rate of about a knot and a half, but of course they can only be used for short distances. As a sailing vessel, however, she leaves nothing to be desired.

As the Protectorate now extends in a N.W. and S.E. direction nearly 1000 miles, it is impossible for a sailing vessel to adequately patrol more than a portion of it, and the vessel's work has hitherto been mostly in the western portion of the Protectorate.

The vessel has been maintained in excellent order and is now in a better condition than when she arrived from Sydney.

It is to be hoped that it may eventually be found possible to replace her by a steamer. There are ways by which a steamer could be made to earn part of her expenses, and I propose to indicate these to his Excellency the High Commissioner at an early date.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1899-1900.

15.—POLICE FORCE.

Provision was made during the year for an increase in the native police force, with a view to the suppression of head-hunting raids.

The first men of the new force were recruited from Malaita early in November and others later from Savo and Ysabel.

They have all been employed under the instruction of Mr. Mahaffy at the new Government Station at Gizo. The patience and skill with which this officer has trained the men and taught them their drill are worthy of the highest praise.

Their presence in the western portion of the Protectorate has already had a salutary effect upon the head-hunters.

In January it was found necessary to inflict exemplary punishment upon a village in the Rubiana Lagoon in consequence of a most cold-blooded raid upon the district of Bogotu on Ysabel. For this all available men were employed both from Tulagi and Gizo. The punishment inflicted was severe, and in addition a large quantity of native property was captured and also the large tomako, or head-hunting canoe, in which the raid was made.

The latter was nearly new and a very fine specimen of its kind. It is now in use at the Gizo station.

It seems fitting that retribution should have fallen upon these people at the hands of natives of Ysabel, who compose a large proportion of the police force.

For more than three hundred years, that is to say from the time of our first knowledge of the Solomons, and probably long before that, the natives of the New Georgia Group and adjacent islands, have harried the coasts of Ysabel.

The action described above is believed to have produced a most profound impression and will not have to be repeated.

In addition to the proceedings at Rubiana, the natives of Russell Island and Simbo have received a more moderate lesson, and these places may, it is believed, be considered to be pacified.

One or two severe lessons are required at other places in the western portion of the Protectorate, after which, it is believed, that head-hunting will be almost a thing of the past.

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No. 347.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1900-1901.

(For Report for 1899-1900, *see* No. 320.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1902.



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1902.

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02

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
321	Lagos	1900
322	Pernuda... ..	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas... ..	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia... ..	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea ...	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands ...	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago ...	"
339	British Honduras ...	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria ...	1900-1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 347.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1900-1901.
—

(For Report for 1899-1900, see No. 320.)

HIGH COMMISSIONER ALLARDYCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva,

Fiji, 6th November, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of the Report of the Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the year 1900-1901.

I have &c.,

W. L. ALLARDYCE.

BRITISH
SOLOMON
ISLANDS,
1900-1901.

PROTECTORATE OF BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.—
REPORT FROM 1st APRIL, 1900, TO 31st MARCH,
1901.

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

No special enumeration of these has been made, but, as the date of the report coincided with the time appointed for taking the Census throughout the Empire, an attempt has been made to make the present return as complete as possible.

The number of white and other foreign residents on the 31st March, 1901, amounts to 76. Of these, there were 65 males and 11 females.

Their employments and occupations were as follows:—

In Government employment	...	...	...	4
Melanesian Mission	...	...	...	2
Marist Fathers Mission (including two sisters)	...	...	...	13
Engaged in trading, prospecting for minerals, diving for pearl-shell, and scientific pursuits	...	...	...	48
Women and children	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	76

The nationalities of the above were as follows:—

British	...	...	...	...	50
French (including 13 members of the Marist Mission)	...	...	...	...	15
Philippine Islanders	...	...	...	...	6
Germans	...	...	...	...	2
Scandinavians	...	...	...	...	2
Japanese	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	76

MORTALITY AND SICKNESS.

Three deaths have occurred among the white and other foreign population in the Protectorate during the year. In two cases death was due to natural causes, the cause of death in one case being malarial fever and in the other blood poisoning. The third case reported was a case of accidental drowning through an accident to a diving dress.

In addition to the above reported deaths in the Protectorate, Mr. N. C. Tindal, a prominent trader, died during a visit to Sydney.

For the third year in succession no death due to attack by natives has to be recorded.

No death or accident from the incautious use of dynamite has occurred during the year.

An epidemic of dysentery prevailed among the natives during the first part of the period now under review, but does not appear to have been very fatal.

An epidemic of influenza caused many deaths at the west end of the Protectorate during the month of March, but on the whole the year may be considered to have been a healthy one.

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REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

A steady and most satisfactory increase is again apparent in the Revenue, which shows an improvement under every head.

Naturally, part of this increase is attributable to the revenue received from residents in that part of the Protectorate which was previously under the control of Germany, but this does not account for the whole increase.

A grant of £500 was received from Imperial funds during the year in aid of the increased expenditure necessary to support the new Government Station at the western end of the Protectorate, the increased force of Police and the Government Vessel.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Period.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-1898	957 3 11	1,933 2 0
1898-1899	1,257 7 10	1,030 1 8
1899-1900	1,454 1 6	3,120 2 0
1900-1901	1,903 11 11	1,926 13 7

	£ s. d.
Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney, 31st March, 1901	1,115 10 3
Cash in Chest, 31st March, 1901 ...	883 8 9
	£1,998 19 0
Less—Amount due to Estates of persons deceased	232 12 11
Protectorate Funds in hand, 31st March, 1901	£1,766 6 1

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TRADE.

EXPORTS.

Estimated value £28,260, as against £21,381 for the previous year.

A most satisfactory increase is apparent in all the principal articles exported, with the exception of turtle-shell and green snail-shell. In both of these there is a falling off.

Copra, the chief article of export, again shows a marked increase over the previous year, an increase which is likely to be maintained as the plantations now forming by white planters begin to come into bearing.

Ivory nuts have again been enquired for in small quantities, but the price offered is not a remunerative one, and no large shipments are likely to be made unless the price improves. It is anticipated that an increased demand for this product is likely to occur.

The export of pearl-shell shows a marked increase over the previous return, the improvement being chiefly in the more valuable gold-lipped variety. The quantity of this obtained is likely to be well maintained in the future.

The quantity of turtle-shell exported exhibits a considerable falling off, for which it is somewhat difficult to account, unless it is that fewer canoes have visited the favourite turtling grounds in Manning Straits in consequence of the means adopted to suppress head hunting.

The increase in the export of beche-de-mer is chiefly due to the amount shipped from Santa Cruz, but more attention has been paid to this product by traders generally than for some years past.

The price of green snail-shell has not been so satisfactory, and consequently less has been shipped. Local stocks have been held back, and an improvement in the price would at once lead to increased shipments.

IMPORTS.

The imports have increased slightly during the year. Tobacco, as the chief medium of exchange, holds the foremost place. Calico, axes, knives and other hardware, timber for house-building, corrugated roofing, kerosene, ship chandlery, tinned provisions, flour, biscuits, beer, and spirits are among the other articles imported.

Rice is largely used by the traders to supplement the supply of native food when the latter is scarce. The natives are very fond of it and it is almost as cheap as native food.

Coal to the amount of 1,200 tons was imported, chiefly for the use of His Majesty's ships.

The natives continue to buy boats, and several arrive from Sydney by every steamer.

STATEMENT of EXPORT for SIX YEARS ending 31st MARCH, 1901.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Beche-de-Mer.	Green Snail Shell.	Rattans.	Coco-nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Oil.	Plants.	Curios.
1895	Tons. 1,200	Tons. 586	Tons. Cwts. 6 10	Lbs. 891	Ts. Cts. 7 18	Ts. Cts. —	Bundles. —	Bags. —	Bags. —	Casks. —	Cases. —	Cases. —
1896	1,383	600	8 9½	1,379	3 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st January 1897 to 31st March 1898 (15 Months).	1,688	580	8 3½	3,149	5 10	—	290	129	7	—	23	—
1st April 1898 to 31st March 1899.	1,456	85	8 15½	3,133½	4 6½	—	—	5	2	—	6	—
1st April 1899 to 31st March 1900.	1,661	20	15 17½	3,238	5 9½	31 6½	—	20	1 box	1	4	—
1st April 1900 to 31st March 1901.	2,188	100	9 3 12 16 black. gold.	2,318	22 17	19 0	—	15	—	—	3	15

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LABOUR TRADE.

Nine labour ships visited the Protectorate during the period under review. All of them hailed from Queensland.

Of these, three made three voyages, two made two voyages, and four made one voyage, or a total of 17 voyages in all.

In spite of the rigorous search imposed by the Queensland Authorities, it is feared that a considerable quantity of rifle ammunition is still brought back by returning labourers.

It is believed that natives of Mala are forced to recruit by their chiefs with the sole view of their being able to smuggle rifles or ammunition back with them at the expiration of their three years' engagement.

It is positively known that natives engage to serve as boats' crew on board the labour ships with this object in view.

Great ingenuity is shown in the concealment of contraband. Rifles have been hidden in the vessel's tops, in the galley funnel, in the water tanks, or fastened to a fishing line and put over-board during the time when the vessel was being searched.

Cartridges are found in all sorts of curious places, as, for instance, concealed under a woman's skirts, in a saucepan, in the bunt of a furled sail, and packed as an original package of tobacco.

No case of illegal recruiting has been reported. The increased attention paid to the Santa Cruz Group by His Majesty's ships during the past season has, it is hoped, put a stop to this.

Should the recruiting of labourers for the Queensland plantations be stopped altogether by the Federal Australian Government, as is probable, the effect would be to render available a larger supply of labourers for local requirements.

The area of land under cultivation as plantations by white owners in the Protectorate is an annually increasing one, and the planting industry will develop rapidly if no obstacles are placed in the way of legitimate planting enterprise.

The immediate result of the abolition of the Queensland labour trade would mean a serious loss of revenue to the Protectorate from the licenses now payable by labour ships. It is hoped, however, that this would eventually be compensated for by the increased revenue received locally.

The addition to the Protectorate of the islands of Ysabel and Choiseul, &c., has, of course, thrown these islands open to the Queensland recruiting vessels.

One or two vessels visited Ysabel, but with very poor success, and it is not considered probable that these natives will ever engage in any numbers for Queensland.

One labour vessel visited Lord Howe's Group, but, it is understood, without success.

In consequence of a doubt existing as to whether the Lord Howe natives were suited to work upon the Queensland plantations, enquiries were addressed to the Immigration Agent in Brisbane, who, having made enquiries, replied that they had been generally found suitable.

The replies of the various District Inspectors were as follows:—

Bundaberg.

Re Lord Howe Islanders, 17 arrived in 1887—13 returned end term. So far as I remember think them suitable.

Ingham.

There were 22 Lord Howe Islanders *ex* "Stormbird," 7/10/81, in this district some years ago. Am given to understand they were suitable.

Maryborough.

Do not know of any Lord Howe Islanders having been recruited for this district, but two work here—strong, healthy, good workers.

Geraldton.

Am informed Lord Howe Islanders were recruited for this district some years back, but found not up to the standard.

SHIPPING.

Regular steam communication with Sydney has now been established by means of Messrs. Burns Philp and Co.'s steamer, running to schedule time, every two months. The service has been in every way better conducted, and loss of time on the part of local traders has been avoided, as the steamer now calls at regular intervals, and the long periods of wasted time, waiting for the steamer to arrive on an uncertain date, are consequently avoided.

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The trade of the Protectorate has now arrived at a stage when a direct steamer from Sydney is certainly warranted.

The present service, consisting of the two steamers "Mambare" and "Titus," is subsidized by the Government of New South Wales to the extent of £2,000 a year for carrying mails.

Under their contract, Messrs. Burns Philp despatch a steamer on the 1st of each month from Sydney, calling at Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands on both the outward and homeward trips. The "Mambare," after leaving Norfolk Island, confines herself to the New Hebrides trade. The "Titus," after leaving Norfolk Island calls at Vila only, in the New Hebrides, then at Santa Cruz, and devotes the remainder of the voyage to the Solomons, returning again *viâ* Vila, Norfolk and Lord Howe Island.

The distance from Sydney to the Solomons direct is about 1,600 miles, but, in consequence of the detour required under the conditions of the subsidy, the distance covered between Sydney and the Solomons, and again on the return journey, is about 2,400 miles.

The visits to Lord Howe and Norfolk Island can be for sentimental or charitable reasons only, as these two places have no trade to speak of.

The "Mambare," calling on her outward and homeward voyage, would be more than sufficient to do any carrying or passenger trade which Norfolk or Lord Howe are ever likely to require. As they are almost in a direct line between Sydney and the New Hebrides, no time would be lost. To ask the Solomon Island steamer to go 800 miles out of her way on both the outward and homeward voyage to call for perhaps two boatloads of cargo and a bag of mails appears to be a great waste of time and money.

The detour to Santa Cruz, under the conditions of the mail subsidy, is equally futile. At the present time there is one white resident in the Santa Cruz Group, a trader who ships all his produce through one of the Solomon Island traders and obtains his supplies in the same way. The Mission steamer "Southern Cross" calls three or more times a year to land or remove a white missionary, who spends about ten weeks in the island, and probably has no correspondence at all addressed to him at Santa Cruz, except what is brought by the Mission steamer.

The result is that the "Titus," when in the Solomons, has to work cargo day and night and Sundays, or it would be quite impossible for her to keep her schedule time. Work at such high pressure must certainly eventually break down.

With a direct service, the voyage between Sydney and the Solomons, which now occupies nearly three weeks, could be accomplished in about eight days.

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An opportunity would then be afforded to traders and planters to ship pineapples, bananas, and other tropical fruits, for which at present they have no outlet.

With an export trade to Sydney larger than that of the New Hebrides, and, excluding gold, far larger than that of British New Guinea, the Solomons should be worth encouragement from the point of view of New South Wales.

Nearly all the copra which goes to Sydney from the Solomons is now converted into soap and oil-cake in Sydney itself. Sydney's consumption of copra is certain to be very largely increased at a very early date.

Sydney must continue to be for many years to come the base of the Pacific Island trade. Melbourne is geographically too remote. Auckland is not such a good market either for buying or selling.

Whether under the new Federal tariff, which will place them upon the same footing as Sydney, Brisbane, or another of the Queensland ports, which are, of course, much nearer to the islands than Sydney, will be able to capture a share of the Solomon Island trade, remains to be proved. Certain it is that they have not been able to compete with Sydney hitherto.

Sydney has had the trade of the Solomon Islands, such as it has been, for the last 50 years, and would find it to her advantage, when it is becoming worth having, to encourage it.

A relaxation of the conditions imposed upon the Solomon Island steamer of calling at Norfolk, Lord Howe, and the New Hebrides, under the terms of the subsidy, would give this encouragement without any additional cost to the New South Wales Government, and would confer a great benefit upon the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The number of vessels employed in the interinsular trade and in the pearl fishing industry is larger than for the previous year.

One small vessel has been lost and two have been withdrawn from trading.

The number of vessels engaged in the pearl fishing industry is now seven. Those engaged in general trading number about sixteen.

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The ships engaged in the labour trade are referred to under that heading.

AGRICULTURE.

The area of land under cultivation by white men in the Protectorate continues to increase. Most of it is planted with coco-nuts. In the following list the amount of land under coco-nuts only is taken into consideration, land used for growing native food not being taken account of:—

	Acres.
Santa Anna	20
Ugi	10
Marau Sound	35
Kaukau	100
Aola	200
Bara	3
Lengo	100
Gavutu	30
Government Station, Tulagi	75
Rubiana	50
Government Station, Gizo	10
Faisi	10
Poporang	20
Awa	25
Fauro	300

Maize has been successfully grown upon land already cleared and planted with young coco-nuts, and is said to have proved most useful in cleaning the land and keeping down weeds. Samples grown upon Guadalcanar appear to be of the highest quality. This article will figure among the exports for the coming year.

The experimental coffee nursery at the Government Station at Tulagi is now bearing well. A supply of seed is available for any one wishing to start coffee planting.

MINERALS.

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A party of prospectors has been at work during the year upon the Island of Rendova with the object of discovering the source of origin of the very rich specimens of copper ore which have from time to time been produced from that island.

At the time of writing the result of the work is uncertain, but satisfactory indications of the existence of copper in payable quantities are alleged to have been discovered.

CLAIMS TO LAND.

Under "The Solomon (Land) Regulation, 1896," land may be acquired for the purpose of a trading station or for agricultural purposes by purchase or lease from the native owners, but contracts for the acquisition of such land are provisional only until confirmed by the High Commissioner.

It is required that a tenth part of the area of land so purchased for agricultural purposes be cultivated within five years.

Under "The Solomon (Waste Land) Regulation, 1900," Certificates of Occupation may be granted by the High Commissioner for any land which is not owned, cultivated, or occupied by any native or non-native person. Under this Regulation it is hoped that large areas of land will be taken up for coco-nut planting and other agricultural pursuits. For coco-nut planting the term of occupation license should not be less than 50 years and should be renewable.

Previous to the declaration of the British Protectorate certain transactions had taken place between natives and white men, alleged on the part of the latter to have been purchases of land.

In some cases these transactions were reasonable enough, and by subsequent occupation the purchasers have by this time, it is presumed, acquired an indefeasible title.

In other cases, the pretensions of the alleged purchasers have been of the most extravagant nature. Square miles of land are claimed to have been purchased for a consideration, which, when stated at all, works out at a very small fraction of a penny per acre. No attempt was made to enquire into the title of the

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native who was supposed to sell the land. The first native encountered on the beach was considered good enough to purchase from. No occupation on the part of the claimants has taken place.

A Register of Claims to Land has hitherto been kept in the Office of the High Commissioner in Fiji, and supporting documents are accepted for filing upon payment of a small fee.

Claimants have in most cases supposed that the fact of registration in Fiji has been sufficient to establish their titles. It cannot, however, be too distinctly understood by would-be claimants that such registration is not regarded as the record of a warrantable title. The transaction is merely placed on record and nothing more.

Since the beginning of the present year, a similar Register of Claims and documents relating to land is kept in the Office of the Resident Commissioner at Tulagi.

It is hoped that no time will be lost in putting the whole question of outstanding land claims upon a more satisfactory footing, and of disposing, once for all, of certain preposterous claims which have been lately advanced.

Until these are finally settled one way or the other, the agricultural progress of the Protectorate may be said to be almost at a standstill.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The year past has been one of unusual dryness. The returns of rainfall have not at present been kept for a period extended enough to enable an observer to estimate the average annual rainfall for a series of years, but it would appear that the rainfall for 1900 was very much below the average.

Natives have complained of their yam sets perishing in the ground from lack of moisture, but that anything in the shape of a drought could ever be experienced in the Solomons is not to be supposed.

Severe westerly and north-westerly gales were experienced during the monsoon season in January, and were especially felt at the Island of Savo, where considerable damage was done both to houses and plantations.

The following is a table of the rainfall observed at the Government Station at Tulagi since October, 1897:—

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TABLE OF RAINFALL OBSERVED AT TULAGI IN INCHES.

Month.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
January	—	9·51	14·27	12·20	10·93
February	—	28·55	12·04	3·09	12·46
March	—	27·89	17·47	13·48	10·83
April	—	6·67	20·48	2·29	—
May	—	4·19	8·85	5·83	—
June	—	4·86	1·26	3·20	—
July	—	4·86	24·27	3·24	—
August	—	9·94	8·33	3·01	—
September	—	10·58	10·92	5·41	—
October	2·91	10·23	11·21	9·12	—
November	5·66	21·14	7·89	10·62	—
December	11·03	8·97	19·03	10·83	—
Total	19·60	147·39	156·02	82·32	32·22

Compare with the above:—

Rainfall at Santa Anna in 1883 ... 125·03 inches.

Rainfall at Ugi in 1883 ... 146·24 inches.

GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI.

The buildings on the Government Station at Tulagi remain the same as at the date of the last report.

No new works, in the way of buildings, have been undertaken, but the landing wharf has been repaired and will serve for the present.

The Residence and Gaol have been painted, and the verandah of the former has been lined with tongued and grooved oregon, making the house much cooler.

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The area under coco-nuts has been increased during the year to 75 acres, and a further area has been cleared and is now available for planting.

About three miles of drains have been cut, allowing the surface water to escape quickly after heavy rain, and reducing the risk of malarial fever by curtailing the breeding grounds of the mosquitos. Malarial fever has in fact caused very slight inconvenience. Attacks occur now and again, but it appears to be one of those ailments for which one gets no sympathy.

The area of land on Tulagi now under cultivation considerably exceeds 100 acres, and, with the exception of a small quantity of rice which has occasionally to be bought, the natives upon the station are entirely fed upon food grown upon the spot.

Bananas grow wonderfully well upon soil that is by no means of the first quality and afford a continuous supply of fruit. The variety grown is the Cavendish banana. The climate of the Solomons appears eminently suited to it, and there is no doubt if there was direct steam communication with Sydney that planters would grow it for shipment.

During the coming year a return may be expected from the coco-nuts now growing at Tulagi. This will, of course, not be from those that have been planted, but from those previously growing, which never before bore fruit in consequence of being choked with bush. The process of clearing the land has now forced these into bearing.

Young trees planted so recently as December, 1898, have, however, recently shown signs of flowering, and, in another twelve months may be expected to give a small return.

GOVERNMENT STATION, GIZO.

This station, which was formed at the end of the year 1899, is situated in the western part of the Protectorate, and was established with the view of checking the head-hunting raids indulged in by the natives of the New Georgia Group and adjacent islands.

It possesses the advantages of an excellent harbour, a healthy situation (malarial fever being almost unknown), and a most picturesque situation, the view from the Residence being one of the most beautiful in the Protectorate.

The works originally consisted of a residence, and gaol and quarters for police and others.

To these have been added during the year an additional house for the police, a boat and canoe house, and a landing wharf of coral stone.

Advantage has been taken of an old native entrenchment, already existing, which has been improved and added to, to make the quarters occupied by the police secure from attack.

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An area of land has been cleared and planted with coco-nuts and other native food.

From old coco-nut trees already existing upon the site, an amount of copra has been made and sold during the year, giving a net return of £33.

GOVERNMENT VESSEL "LAHLOO."

The Government vessel, which was purchased during the year 1899 by funds placed at the disposal of the Protectorate by the Imperial Government, has continued to perform everything that was to be expected from a sailing vessel in a locality where long periods of calm are interspersed with times of very bad weather.

The "Lahloo" has been maintained in the highest state of efficiency possible, and is now in a better condition than she was when she arrived from Sydney.

During the year she has been continually at work, except during the months of February and March, when she was unavoidably laid up in consequence of the loss of all her sails in an exceptionally severe gale encountered about the end of January.

Except for the period mentioned she has never been idle, and has visited all parts of the Protectorate, from Santa Cruz at one end to Lord Howe's Group and the Bougainville Straits at the other.

It is evident that to properly patrol the whole of the Protectorate, which now extends in a north-westerly and south-easterly direction for a distance of 1,000 miles, a sailing vessel is of but small use compared with a steamer.

Starting or returning from any given point, in any direction, it must be a dead beat for a sailing vessel one way or the other, supposing that there is any wind at all.

The long intervals of calm, lasting frequently for a week at a time, when for days and days a sailing vessel will helplessly drift with the tide or current, generally, by a strange fatality, it seems, in the direction exactly opposite to that in which it is intended she should go, are enough to break the heart of any but the most indifferent.

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From the point of view of the "Lahloo," a current might well be defined as something that is invariably unfavourable.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS, &c.

During the season of 1900 the Protectorate was visited by H.M. ships "Pylades," "Torch," and "Ringdove."

The "Pylades" only called in passing at Santa Cruz, but the "Torch," and especially the "Ringdove," devoted considerable attention to this somewhat inaccessible part of the Protectorate, in consequence of illegal recruiting, kidnapping, and illegal supply of fire-arms having occurred there the previous year.

The "Torch" also conveyed the Resident Commissioner to hoist the British flag at the Islands of Ysabel, Choiseul, Gower Island, Lord Howe's Group, Shortland Island, and the other islands in the Bougainville Straits, which had been ceded to Great Britain by Germany by the Agreement of November, 1899.

The Protectorate was visited in February, 1901, by the Austrian warship "Leopard."

The visit of the "Leopard" was for the purpose of erecting a memorial to the memory of Baron Foullon von Norbeck and his companions, of the Austrian warship "Albatros," who lost their lives at the hands of the bush natives of Guadalcanar, while on a scientific expedition to the mountains of that island in 1896.

The memorial was duly erected at Tetera, on the north coast of Guadalcanar, and the "Leopard," after a stay of about ten days, left for Thursday Island.

In November, the German Government steamer "Stephan" arrived at Tulagi, with Herr von Benningsen, the Governor of German New Guinea. The "Stephan," after coaling at Gavutu, left for Lord Howe's Group, where a further supply of coal awaited her, and returned thence *viâ* the islands of Bougainville Straits to the Bismarck Archipelago.

POLICE FORCE.

The Police recruited at the end of 1899 and beginning of 1900, for service at the west end of the Protectorate, with the view of checking and suppressing the head-hunting raids en-

gaged in by the natives of New Georgia and adjacent islands, have, under the training of Mr. Mahaffy, developed into a most valuable force.

With the raw material placed in his hands Mr. Mahaffy has indeed worked wonders.

The establishment of the Gizo station, and the ever present force of police, have had a most deterrent effect upon the head-hunting instincts of the natives in the neighbourhood.

So far as Simbo and the Rubiana lagoon are concerned, head-hunting raids upon any extensive scale may be said to be things of the past.

The natives of Vella Lavella and Ronongo have still to learn their lesson, but, if fear is the beginning of wisdom, they may be said to have already passed the first standard.

The Government vessel "Lahloo" has been employed upon this work as much as possible, but to a large extent use has been made of a large head-hunting canoe, captured in January, 1900, from the natives of Kolokongo, in the Rubiana Lagoon, in punishment for a head-hunting raid upon the district of Bogotu in the Island of Ysabel.

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PRISONS.

The number of native prisoners under detention at the Government Station at Tulagi during the year has been 15.

The offences were as follows:—

Murder	...	...	...	...	1
Theft	...	...	...	...	11
Sorcery	...	...	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	...	...	1
Incest	...	...	...	...	1
					15

The number still under detention on 31st March was 12.

Of these, eight have been sent to Gizo, three of whom have been permitted to become policemen, three remain at Tulagi, and one has been released.

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A considerable number of petty offences, which used formerly to be brought to Tulagi, have been settled by the village chiefs of Gela, and afterwards reported, so that they do not appear in the return.

A fine, in addition to a term of imprisonment, was inflicted upon some natives of Russell Island for theft.

Fines amounting to ten pounds, in addition to the damage done, were imposed upon a chief of Gela and upon a missionary teacher of the same island for burning a native village.

A fine of £100 was imposed upon a white trader for supplying fire-arms to natives. The sentence also involved a bond in a similar amount for future good behaviour, but the trader in question having decided to leave the Protectorate the bond was not required.

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No. 372.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1901-1902.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 347.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
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348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900-1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
364	Seychelles	"
365	Bahamas... ..	1901-1902
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4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
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12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 372.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1900-1901, *see* No. 347.)

MR. C. M. WOODFORD to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government Residence,
Solomon Islands,

15th September, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward for your information a copy of my Report upon the affairs of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the twelve months expired on the 31st March, 1902.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

REPORT OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FROM 1ST APRIL, 1901, TO 31ST MARCH, 1902.

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The number of white and other foreign residents on 31st March, 1902, shows a slight increase over the number returned at the date of the previous report.

In the enumeration no account has been taken of the shipwrecked crew of the labour schooner "Fearless," who passed an enforced period of residence in the Protectorate from the end of January until April.

The total amounts to 83, of which 71 are males and 12 females.

Their employments and occupations were as follows:—

In Government employment	...	...	...	4
Melanesian Mission	...	...	...	4
Marist Mission	...	...	...	14
Engaged in industrial pursuits	...	...	...	45
Women and children	...	...	...	16
				—
			Total	83
				—

The nationalities of the above were as follows:—

British	...	...	...	...	50
French (Marist Mission)	...	...	...	...	13
Germans	...	...	...	...	2
Scandinavians	...	...	...	...	3
Phillipine Islanders	...	...	...	...	4
Japanese	...	...	...	...	2
Half-castes, British subjects	...	...	...	...	9
					—
			Total	...	83
					—

MORTALITY.

The following deaths are to be reported:

James Arthur, recruiter of the "Fearless," shot at Atta, Mala, on 19th April, 1901.

William Pitt, trader, died at Tulagi from the effects of a dynamite accident, 31st August, 1901.

John Fisher, cook of "Roderick Dhu," died from natural causes, 29th November, 1901.

George M'Cabe, recruiter of "Roderick Dhu," shot at Uru Mala, 23rd December, 1901.

John Young, employé, died of sunstroke at Awe, Bougainville Straits, 24th December, 1901.

Henry Clyne, master mariner, died of old age at Faisi, Bougainville Straits, January, 1902.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue shows a slight increase over the amount received during the previous twelve months.

The three most important heads of revenue, viz., Capitation Tax, Station License, and Ship License, have produced about the same as before.

A serious falling off is to be expected during the coming year in the receipts under the head of Ship License, in consequence of the enactment by the Commonwealth Government of Australia of "The Pacific Island Labourers' Act, 1901." Such falling off is estimated at between £400 and £500.

The estimated expenditure for the coming year is £2,112 10s.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Period.						Revenue.			Expenditure.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1897-1898	...	...	...	...	...	957	3	11	1,933	2	0
1898-1899	...	...	...	...	...	1,257	7	10	1,030	1	8
1899-1900	...	...	...	...	...	1,457	1	6	3,120	2	0
1900-1901	...	...	...	...	...	1,903	11	11	1,926	13	7
1901-1902	...	...	...	...	...	1,907	3	7	2,179	8	1
Estimate 1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,428	0	0	2,112	10	0

Cash in Bank of New Zealand, 1,039 9 8
Sydney, 31st March, 1902.

Cash in chest, 31st March, 1902 ... 925 3 1

£1,964 12 9

Less—Amount due to estates of 470 17 8
persons deceased.

Protectorate Funds in hand, 31st 1,493 15 1
March, 1902.

Statement of Exports for seven years ending 31st March, 1902.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell.	Turtle Shell.	Bêche de Mer.	Green Snail Shell.	Rattans.	Coco Nuts.	Palm Seeds.	Oil.	Plants.	Curtis and Specimens.	Maize.	Sandalwood.	Canoes.	Bundries.
	Tons.	Tons.	Ts. cs.	lbs.	Ts. cs.	Ts. cs.	Bundles.	Bags.	Bags.	Cask.	Cases.	Cases.	Bushels.	Tons.		Cases.
1895	1,200	586	6-10	891	7-18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1896	1,383	600	8-94	1,379	3-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1897 to 31st March, 1898 (15 months).	1,688	580	8-84	3,149	5-10	—	290	129	7	—	23	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1898 to 31st March, 1899.	1,456	85	8-154	3,1334	4-64	—	—	5	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1899 to 31st March, 1900.	1,661	20	15-174	3,238	5-94	31-64	—	20	Box 1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1900 to 31st March, 1901.	2,188	100	Black. 9-3 Gold. 12-16	2,318	22-17	19-	—	15	—	—	3	15	15	—	—	—
1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902.	2,315	132	Black. 8-104 Gold. 18-12	2,730	7-4	8-5	—	1	—	—	2	54	160	7	4	9

Estimated value of Exports—1898-1899, £16,318; 1899-1900, £21,381; 1900-1901, £28,260; 1901-1902, £32,076.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1901-2.

TRADE.

EXPORTS.

Estimated value £32,076, as against £28,260 for the previous year, £21,381 in 1899-1900, and £16,818 in 1898-1899.

The most important articles of export, notably copra and pearl shell, show a satisfactory and progressive increase, but the large augmentation in the estimated value of the exports is due mainly to the enhanced price of copra.

The export of copra, by which the whole of the trade may be gauged, shows a steady increase for a period extending back to 1895, and the progress made will certainly be maintained.

Ivory nuts are again enquired for in small quantities. The demand is likely to continue.

Pearl shell of the more valuable quality shows a satisfactory increase.

Bêche-de-mer has not been so much sought for. The high price ruling for copra has caused traders to neglect for the time this very valuable product.

Stocks of green snail shell continue to be held back with the expectation of a rise in prices.

Some small quantity of so-called sandalwood was shipped during the year. It was shipped after the submission of samples, and it is presumed that the purchaser knew what he was buying.

Maize, for the first time, appears in the list of exports. It was grown as an experiment on the rich alluvial flats on the north coast of Guadalcanar, and proved to be of the finest quality. It realised the highest price ruling at the time in the Sydney market. Further planting has for the time been suspended in consequence of the incidence of the Australian Federal tariff of one and sixpence (1s. 6d.) per cental. Encouraged by the fact that grain-laden vessels have recently been ordered back from South Australia and even from the British Channel to Sydney in consequence of the scarcity prevailing, the grower has determined to try again, and a further shipment will shortly be made to Sydney or failing that port, a market will be sought in New Zealand.

IMPORTS.

As there is no Custom House and no Customs duty imposed upon imports into the Protectorate, it has not been considered necessary hitherto to schedule these.

An enquiry, however, having been received from the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for information upon this subject, a list is appended of the imports from the port of

Sydney only, covering the period of six months from 1st October, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

It is impossible, at present, to arrive at any accurate estimate of the value, but the list will serve to demonstrate the nature of the trade and the denominations of the articles in demand.

It must be noticed that the appended list refers to imports for the six months from the Port of Sydney only and that it by no means represents the whole of the imports into the Protectorate for the period.

No notice has been taken of the amount of imports introduced in labour ships either by returning labourers or carried on board the labour ships for the purposes of making presents to the friends and relatives of labourers engaged, but the quantity so introduced amounts to a considerable total.

The chief article of export is undoubtedly tobacco, followed by timber and building materials, boats and small vessels, coals, rice, drapery, cutlery, provisions, and ship-chandlery.

IMPORTS FROM PORT OF SYDNEY ONLY.

From 1st September, 1901, to 31st March, 1902 (6 Months.)

Acid—2 boxes.
 Anchors—10.
 Anvil—1.
 Armlets (porcelain)—1 case.
 Axes—27 cases.
 Axe handles—7 cases.
 Beads—44 cases.
 Bacon—4 cases, 2 bags, 1 side.
 Bedsteads—5.
 Beer (bottled)—16 cases.
 Biscuits—211 crates—16,880 lbs.
 Blocks (wood)—2 cases.
 Boiler—1.
 Boats and Gear—17.
 Boat hooks—2.
 Boxes (wooden trade)—148, 2 packages, and 6 nests.
 Bolts and nuts—2 drums.
 Boots and shoes—3 cases.
 Bottles (stone)—2 crates.
 Brandy—1 cases.
 Brooms—1 bundle.
 Buckets (galv.)—14 bundles.
 Butter—13 cases.
 Cakes—1 case.
 Candles—3 boxes.
 Cattle—6.
 Canvas—3 trusses.
 Cans and covers (galv.)—6.
 Cartridges—11 cases.

Imports from Port of Sydney only.—cont.

Castings—1 case.
Cement—26 casks.
Cheese—2 cases.
Church furniture—7 cases.
Chain—11 lengths.
Cigars—4 cases.
Clocks—1 case.
Clothing—2 bales.
Coal tar—2 casks, 4 drums.
Cocoa—10 cases.
Coffee—1 case, 1 package.
Cow rope—2 coils.
Copper—2 packages.
*Coals
Crockery—1 cask.
Cutter and gear complete—1.
Curry—3 cases.
Driving gear—3 cases.
Doors—2 packages.
Dogs—2.
Drapery—52 cases, 4 packages, 2 bales, 1 truss.
Drugs—7 cases.
Enamel-ware—3 cases, 1 cask.
Evaporated fruit—12 cases.
Fish hooks—1 case.
Fish (tinned)—34 cases.
Flour—84 crates, 1 sack, 1 cask.
Fruit (canned)—37 cases.
Furniture—4 packages, 2 cases.
Gin—53 cases.
Ginger ale—2 cases.
Golden syrup—1 case.
Glass—2 cases.
Groceries—10 cases.
Grindstones—5.
Hay—21 bales.
Hardware—18 cases.
Hatchets—6 cases.
Hollow-ware—2 casks.
Horses—2.
Instruments—1 case.
Iron (galv. copping)—5 bundles.
 „ (galv. roofing)—11 cases.
 „ ware—3 bundles and 48 pieces.
 „ hooping—6 bundles.
Ironmongery—22 packages.

* No coals were introduced during the period covered by the present list, but the annual amount reaches about 1,000 tons. All from New South Wales.

Imports from Port of Sydney only.—cont.

Iron pots—6 crates.
„ bar—9 bundles.
„ railings—4 lengths, 2 cases.
Jams—8 cases.
Kava—1 case.
Kerosene—185 cases.
Kettles—1 cask.
Knives—8 cases, 1 cask.
Lanterns—15 cases, 1 crate.
Leatherware—2 cases, 1 bale.
Marmalade—1 case.
Maize—6 bags.
Masts and gear—6.
Matting—2 rolls.
Meat (tinned)—130 cases.
„ (salt)—46 kegs, a cask, 2 tierces.
„ (extract)—1 case.
Metal rods—1 bundle.
Milk (preserved)—26 cases.
Mirrors—1 case.
Molasses—4 hogsheads.
Mustard—1 case.
Musical instruments—1 case.
Muntz metal—3 cases.
Nails—5 cases, 1 keg.
Neatsfoot oil—1 case.
Onions—135 cases, 2 bags.
Oars—4 bundles.
Oil—24 drums, 4 cases.
Oilcans—2.
Oilskin coats—1.
Ochre—1 cask.
Paints—54 kegs, 26 drums, 3 cases.
Painkiller—1 case.
Peas—8 bags.
Paper (brown)—1 bundle.
Pepper—1 package.
Pickles—1 case.
Pipes (clay)—92 boxes.
„ (wood)—11 cases.
Pigs—8.
Plants—1 case.
Potatoes—100 cases, 16 sacks.
Puddings—1 case.
Rat traps—1 case.
Rice—1,007 bags, 1 tank, 550 cwt.
Rope (manilla)—42 coils.
„ (wire)—1 coil.
Ruberoid roofing—2 rolls.
Saddlery—5 packages.

Imports from Port of Sydney only.—cont.

Sacks—13 bales.
Safe—1.
Sails—11 bales.
Salt—4 cases, 2 bags, 1 cask.
Sauce—3 cases.
Sarsaparilla—1 case.
Shackles—1 bundle.
Sausages—5 cases.
Sundries—78 cases.
Sleepers (railway)—10 bundles.
Soups—4 cases.
Soap—19 cases.
Spades—1 case.
Spars—4.
Stationery—3 parcels.
Stockholm tar—3 drums.
Stones (hewn)—75.
Sugar bags—1 bale.
Sugar—33 crates, 37 bags, 1 case loaf.
Syrup—4 cases.
Tanks—6.
Tapioca—1 package.
Tea—12 cases, 2 boxes, 1 chest.
Tent—1.
Timber—4,584 pieces—43,048 feet.
 „ (box)—120 bundles—2,550 feet.
Tools—1 bundle.
Trunks—4 packages.
Tobacco—143 cases, 2 parcels—21,052 lbs.
Tombstones—4 cases.
Tomato sauce—3 cases.
Turpentine—2 cases.
Turnips—1 case.
Twine—2 bales.
Tubs (galv.)—1 bundle.
Varnish—1 case.
Vegetables (tinned)—12 cases.
Vestas—44 cases.
Vinegar—3 cases.
Whiskey—61 cases, 1 cask, 1 keg.
Wine (sparkling)—5 cases.
 „ (still)—20 cases, 3 casks.
Wire (netting)—7 rolls.
 „ (barbed)—27 coils.
 „ (rope)—2 coils.
 „ mattresses—3.
Window sashes—2 packages.

LABOUR TRADE.

Eleven labour ships visited the Protectorate during the year, of which one was recruiting for Fiji and ten for Queensland.

The Fiji vessel made one trip and the ten Queensland vessels 21 trips.

The boats of the "Fearless" were fired upon at Atta, Mala, on 19th April, 1901, resulting in the death of the recruiter James Arthur. George M'Cabe, recruiter of the "Roderick Dhu," was shot at Uru, Mala, on 23rd December, 1901. The boats of the "Clansman" were fired upon at Langa Langa, Mala, on 18th February, 1902, and the boats of the "Rio Loge" at Anuta, Mala, in March, 1902. An information has been laid that the master and recruiter of a Queensland labour vessel supplied cartridges to natives at Langa Langa in March, 1902, but the case is at present under investigation.

Vessels from Queensland are rigidly searched for arms and ammunition before leaving, and additional precautions have been lately taken.

The following letter has been received from the Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland upon the subject:—

Government House, Brisbane,

2nd December, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of 21st September and 5th and 22nd of October last.

With reference to the surreptitious introduction of arms and ammunition into the Protectorate I have the honour to enclose an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Philp, the Prime Minister of Queensland, to whom I referred your letters for consideration.

I have, &c.,

S. W. GRIFFITH.

C M. Woodford, Esq.,

Resident Commissioner,

Solomon Islands.

(Enclosure in above.)

Extract from letter from Chief Secretary, Brisbane, dated 29th November, 1901, to Lieutenant-Governor:—

"I find upon enquiry that there is good reason to believe that these illegal transactions are carried out mainly by, or by means of, Islanders who have signed on at the Islands as boat's crews, and as these men live on board the vessels at Queensland ports,

and as their doings on board ship are, or ought to be, under the careful observation of those in charge, I have caused it to be notified to captains of labour vessels that in any case of discovery of concealed arms or ammunition on board one of these vessels the captain will be held responsible, and that in such case he will be liable to debarment from taking any further part, as captain, on board any vessel licensed to carry Pacific Islanders.

I have also directed that in searching the vessel, the examination shall not be confined to examining the boxes and quarters of the Islanders but shall be extended to the cabins of the captain and officers, and that after search has been made the Government Agent shall prevent any further communication with the shore. With these precautions, in addition to continued careful search by the Customs officers, I trust that a recurrence of the evil complained of will be effectually prevented. I regret that in neither of the instances given by Mr. Woodford is the information in the possession of the Government sufficient to enable the guilt to be brought home to the real offender, and I fear that from the nature of the circumstances it would always be difficult to procure such evidence as would be adequate to secure conviction. I think, however, that he will agree with me that under the stringent measures now to be adopted it is unlikely that occasion will arise for further complaint in the matter."

Labour vessels are also searched at Tulagi on their arrival and two discoveries of ammunition and one of a rifle were made during the year, the owners in each case receiving a sentence of imprisonment. In one case the cartridges were packed in a box made up to resemble tobacco.

The passing of the "Pacific Island Labourers' Act, 1901," by the Commonwealth Government of Australia will bring the Queensland labour trade to an end before 31st March, 1904, and Pacific Island labourers may be deported from Australia after 31st December, 1906.

Under the circumstances, it will be found necessary to take into consideration the provision of land where such deported natives may be settled.

In many cases it will be impossible for these unfortunates to return to the places whence they were recruited, as they may have left home in the first instance to escape the punishment of their own misdeeds.

Steps will be taken with a view to the reservation of an area or areas of land where such deported natives may have an opportunity of settling.

The Queensland labour vessel "Fearless" was totally wrecked on San Cristoval at the end of January, 1902. No lives were lost. The native recruits on board were transferred to another vessel, and the crew, after suffering considerable privations,

arrived at Tulagi in March, whence they returned to Sydney by the steamer.

During the present year it is expected that one labour vessel will visit the Protectorate from Fiji, and about five from Queensland.

The numbers recruited for Queensland from the Protectorate during the year ended 31st December, 1901, were 1,165, and the numbers returned during the same period were 557.

It will thus be seen that the cessation of the Queensland labour trade and the deportation from Queensland of the natives already recruited will result in a much larger number being available for local employment.

The natives of Mala especially, which supplied last year about two-thirds of the total number recruited for Queensland, having no cocoa-nuts to speak of or other means of supplying themselves with trade goods by means of the barter trade, have been forced to obtain such foreign goods as have now by long usage become necessities by means of the sale of their labour.

As the demand for labour in the Protectorate is a steady one and likely to be very much increased in the future, the abolition of the Queensland trade, although entailing present financial inconvenience, will probably in the end result in benefit to the Protectorate.

SHIPPING.

The conditions referred to in the Report for last year as to the inconvenience and loss entailed upon the traders of the Protectorate by the enforced détour of the Sydney steamer to Lord Howe, Norfolk Island, the New Hebrides, and Santa Cruz under the terms of the federal subsidy still continue.

Of the steamers running under the subsidy it is admitted that the Solomon Islands steamer alone is paying, and that by cargo carried to and from the Solomons.

It is true that there has been a certain quantity of cargo from Sydney to Norfolk Island lately in consequence of the landing of material for the new cable station, but in ordinary times the import and export trade of Norfolk Island would be adequately served by a 40-ton schooner, and that of Lord Howe by a good-sized whale boat.

For Santa Cruz there has been no cargo either inwards or outwards for three trips and only six letters, yet this call alone entails a deviation of 160 miles and the loss of a whole day.

With a direct service between the Solomons and Sydney the growth of bananas for shipment would be at once undertaken,

and the very superior quality of the Solomon Island product would enable it, in spite of the tariff, to be sold at a profit in the Sydney market.

The number of vessels employed locally in trading remains about the same as last year. Two have been lost, but their places have been taken by others.

AGRICULTURE.

The area under cocoanuts owned by white planters on 30th April, 1902, was as follows, as compared with the previous return:—

	Acres, 1901.	Acres, 1902.
Santa Anna	20	20
Ugi	10	10
Marau Sound	35	35
Kaukau	100	100
Aola	200	200
Bara	3	3
Lunga	100	425
Gavutu	30	30
Vinula... ..	—	10
Government Station, Tulagi	75	105
" " Gizo	10	75
Lilibina	—	5
Rubiana	50	50
Faisi	10	10
Poporang	20	20
Awa	25	25
Fauro	300	300
Total	988	1,423

The cultivation of maize has for the present been suspended in consequence of the Australian Federal tariff, but with the high prices prevailing in Sydney for this product it is probable that it would still, in spite of the duty of 1s. 6d. per cental, pay to grow for export to the Australian market.

Bananas are being increasingly grown by the traders for food. With a direct steam service to Sydney, these, as well as pine-apples, would be exported, as they are much superior to the Queensland product.

It has been proposed to make an experiment in the direction of the shipment of dry fodder to Sydney. At present prices this would almost certainly prove remunerative.

MINERALS.

The prospecting party which explored the Island of Rendova last year with the view of working the copper known to exist there has for the present suspended operations. Of the presence of the mineral there is no doubt, and the intention is to resume operations when a rise in the price of copper takes place.

A concession for a period of two years has been granted to a Melbourne syndicate to collect sulphur from the Island of Vella Lavella. Work is on the point of commencement but no shipment has at present been made.

A license to prospect the Island of Saint George for valuable minerals has been applied for and will be granted.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following is a table showing the rainfall observed at the Government Station at Tulagi since September, 1897, in inches:—

Month.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
January ...	—	9·51	14·27	12·20	10·93	18·31
February ...	—	28·55	12·04	3·09	12·46	27·76
March ...	—	27·89	17·47	13·48	10·83	22·39
April ...	—	6·67	20·48	2·29	6·75	8·53
May ...	—	4·19	8·85	5·83	17·59	4·55
June ...	—	4·86	1·26	3·20	10·69	7·85
July ...	—	4·86	24·27	3·24	5·53	—
August ...	—	9·94	8·33	3·01	13·24	—
September ...	—	10·58	10·92	5·41	10·35	—
October ...	2·91	10·23	11·21	9·12	15·60	—
November...	5·66	21·14	7·89	10·62	7·97	—
December...	11·03	8·97	19·03	10·83	11·91	—
Total...	19·60	147·39	156·02	82·32	133·85	—

Compare with the above:—

Rainfall at Santa Anna in 1883 ... 125·03 inches.

Rainfall at Ugi in 1883 ... 146·24 „

Records of the rainfall have now been kept at Tulagi for nearly five years, and an opportunity is thus afforded for presenting a statement of the monthly average for that period.

It has been customary to speak of the months from April to November as the “dry” season, and the months from November to March as the “wet” season. This coincides with the period

of the change of the prevailing wind from the south-east trade to the north-west monsoon. The tabulated statement annexed bears out this idea.

The average for July is upset by a violent storm of rain which occurred in July, 1899, when over 15 inches of rain fell in three days. This appears to have been altogether an exceptional case.

Generally speaking, it would appear that February and March are the wettest months, and May, June, and July, the driest.

It must be noticed in the statement that the averages for August and September are based upon the returns for four years only.

Monthly average rainfall at Tulagi for five years ending July, 1902:—

January	...	...	...	...	...	13.04
February	...	...	...	...	...	16.78
March	...	...	...	...	...	18.41
April	...	...	...	...	...	8.94
May	...	...	...	...	...	8.20
June	...	...	...	...	...	5.57
July (4 years)	...	...	...	...	...	9.47
August (4 years)	...	...	...	...	...	8.63
September (4 years)	...	...	...	...	...	9.31
October	...	...	...	...	...	9.81
November	...	...	...	...	...	10.65
December	...	...	...	...	...	12.35

Annual average for the four years ending December, 1901, 129.89 inches.

GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI.

All the Government buildings have been maintained in good repair.

The trouble previously experienced from white ants at the Residence and other buildings appears to have been overcome by a plentiful use of kerosene and perchloride of mercury.

A causeway and steps of stone and concrete has been commenced leading from the Residence to the landing-place. This was found necessary on account of the bad state of the track in wet weather.

The Island of Tulagi is believed to be about six hundred acres in extent. At the time work was commenced upon it the whole Island was covered with dense forest, the larger trees exceeding eighty feet in height.

The area of land now under cultivation is about one hundred and twenty acres, of which one hundred and five acres are

planted with cocoa-nuts and the remainder with bananas and other food.

A remarkably fine piece of flat land, suitable for cocoa-nuts, estimated to contain twenty acres, is now being cleared.

The cocoa-nuts which were planted in December, 1898, and early in 1889 are already beginning to bear, and a small return has been received. Those planted later are making good progress.

The Island, which appears to be of volcanic formation, rises in places to a height of about 200 feet. The Residence stands at an altitude of about 180 feet.

Upon the south and south-west side of the Island there is a strip of flat land near the coast formed by the influence of the waves which have washed up sand and coral detritus upon the top of a previously existing shore reef.

This flat now stands about six feet above high-water mark and extends for a distance of about one hundred yards inland from the present coast line. Upon this sandy soil, mixed with vegetable humus, cocoa-nuts grow most luxuriantly.

Behind this sandy flat the surface level drops, perhaps, two or three feet, and the soil is composed of alluvial wash from the higher portions of the Island. This low belt extends up to the foot of the rocky core of the Island, and before clearing operations were commenced was a series of swamps upon which it was impossible to walk or to force a way through the exuberant growth of jungle.

All this low flat has now been cleared and drained. Clearing operations were commenced in June, 1897, with the help of eight Solomon Islanders who had been specially selected in Fiji. During the first month more than sixty days' work were lost in consequence of the workmen being attacked by malarial fever. The highest number of cases on some days was three out of the eight natives employed.

At the present time the health of the natives employed on Tulagi has much improved. Out of a force of fifteen natives employed, there was only one case of malarial fever reported for the five months expiring March 31st, 1902.

It is presumed that this improvement is to be attributed to the clearing and draining which has been undertaken.

It is to be regretted that the very valuable "Report of the Malaria Expedition," undertaken by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, has not been more widely disseminated. After repeated enquiries, the writer, being unable to obtain a copy in Sydney, had to order it specially from England.

The stagnant water in the swamps on Tulagi formerly swarmed with the larvae of Culicidae. The drains were cut from above downwards, and it is no exaggeration to say that when the first of the effluent matter was allowed to escape it consisted as much

of mosquito larvae as of water. In fact, an almost solid mass of larvae had collected at the lower end of the drain.

A recent careful search disclosed one place where the larvae of anopheles were discovered. This was in a stagnant pool of perhaps twelve feet by six feet in extent, caused by the tearing up of the ground by the fall of a large tree.

Temporary measures were at once taken to enfil the pool with kerosene, and it has since been filled up. The larvae found in this pool were undoubtedly those of anopheles.

A careful recent search has failed to disclose the presence of mosquito larvae in the drains either of culex or anopheles, but as the water is in constant motion this was not to be expected.

It is not to be supposed that malarial fever has been banished altogether from Tulagi. Every white person who has lived upon the Island has contracted it and continues to suffer from it, but it is certainly of less frequent occurrence than formerly.

Clearing and draining in other parts would doubtless produce a similar result.

GOVERNMENT STATION, GIZO.

Good work in the way of clearing and planting has been done at the Gizo Station. The area under cocoa-nuts has been increased from 10 acres to 75 acres.

Some additional native houses and an additional canoe house have been built.

A native settlement of about 75 people has been formed near to the Government Station.

These people asked permission to settle at Gizo for protection from the head-hunting natives of Vella Lavella.

A greater feeling of security is rapidly growing among the natives of the district, and parties from the surrounding Islands continually visit the Station. They thoroughly understand that it is wrong-doers only who are punished.

As Gizo possesses an excellent harbour it is probable that it will soon become a place of more importance. Stations will be formed there by the Rubiana traders, as by shipping their produce from Gizo the steamer will be saved the risks of the narrow and tortuous passage into the Rubiana lagoon.

GOVERNMENT VESSEL, "LAHLOO."

The Government vessel "Lahloo" has been continually employed during the year and has visited the whole of the Solomons from San Cristoval to Bougainville Straits.

No visit has been paid to Santa Cruz.

The greater part of the time the "Lahloo" has been employed in the western portion of the Protectorate in connection with the Government Station at Gizo, and especially during November during the punitive expedition to Vella Lavella, particulars of which have been already reported.

Canvas and rigging in such a hot and moist climate as the Solomons continually require attention.

Sails or awnings cannot be depended upon after they have been in use more than about eighteen months.

In consequence of the negligent workmanship in coppering the vessel in Sydney it was found that the worms had gained access to the rudder.

By the courtesy of Lieutenant-Commander Coates, the carpenter of H.M.S. "Sparrow" was permitted to effect repairs. Further repairs were afterwards found necessary, but it is believed that the cause of the mischief has been now entirely overcome.

In other respects the vessel has been maintained in a very high state of efficiency and smartness, reflecting the greatest credit upon her master and crew.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS, &c.

The Protectorate was visited by H.M.S. "Pylades" and "Sparrow" during the season 1901.

Among the places visited by the "Pylades" during her passage through the Protectorate was Sikiana or Stewart's Island.

This place is very seldom visited. Captain Tupper, of the "Pylades," reports that he called off the Island on the morning of October 3rd. Six canoes came off. In the first one came the chief, named Saymaru. He brought with him the copy of the Proclamation left by Captain Pollard of H.M.S. "Wallaroo," in 1897, and reported all well on the Island. About 36 men came on board of fine physique, with clear light brown skin. Most of them spoke English. They brought fruit, shells, and fine mats to trade, and wanted principally scent in exchange. They said their women wanted it. The canoes were of a superior type, dug-outs with out-riggers.

The "Sparrow" spent a longer time in the Protectorate, and visited the Santa Cruz Group and most of the Islands of the Solomons.

Punishment was inflicted at Mala on the bush natives living near Atta for the murder of the recruiter of the Queensland labour schooner "Fearless."

The German man-of-war "Cormoran" called at Gavutu for coals on her voyage from New Britain to Samoa in July.

PRISONS.

The number of native prisoners under detention at the Government Stations during the year was 23.

The offences for which they were detained were as follows:—

Smuggling arms and ammunition	...	...	2
Theft	...	...	15
Sorcery	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	2
Manslaughter	...	...	1
Murder	...	...	1
Inciting to breach of peace	...	...	1
			—
			23
			—

A native who received a sentence for manslaughter escaped from custody from Tulagi and is believed to have gone on board a Queensland recruiting vessel.

A prisoner escaped from Gizo and has not since been heard of. He is supposed to have been drowned.

The number of prisoners under detention on 31st March was 12.

C. M. WOODFORD.

LONDON:
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1902.



COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 401.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1902-1903.

(For Report for 1901-1902, *see* No. 372.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
October, 1903.



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1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
380	Basutoland	1901-1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901-1902
383	Bermuda... ..	1902
384	St. Lucia	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar... ..	"
388	Weihaiwei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902-1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas... ..	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.

No. 401.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1901-1902 *see* No. 372.)

COMMISSIONER WOODFORD to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government Residence,
Solomon Islands,
7th July, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith, in order to avoid the delay of transmission *via* Fiji, to forward for your information a copy of my Report upon the affairs of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the year ended on the 31st March, 1903.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD,
Resident Commissioner.

**REPORT ON THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE FROM 1st APRIL, 1902, TO
31st MARCH, 1903.**

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The number of white and other foreign residents on the 31st March, 1903, so far as can be ascertained, amounted to ninety-one (91). This figure shows an increase over the return for the previous year.

Of this number 78 were males and 13 were females.

Their employments and occupations were as follows:—

In Government employment	4
Marist Mission	13
Melanesian Mission	3
Methodist Mission	2
Plymouth Brethren	1
Engaged in trading, fishing, and planting, or working for wages in such occupations ...	49
Women and children	19
Total	91

The nationalities of the above were as follows:—

British	61
French (Marist Mission)	13
Scandinavians	2
Philippinos	2
Japanese	2
German	1
Greek	1
Half-castes (British)	9
Total	91

BIRTHS.

No births have been reported during the year.

MARRIAGES.

A marriage was celebrated on the 19th March, at the Government Residence, Tulagi, between Mr. W. H. Hazelton, Assistant to the Resident Commissioner, and Miss Dalyell of Sydney, New South Wales. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Rabone Rooney of the Methodist Mission, he being a Minister registered to perform marriages in the Western Pacific. This is the first marriage that has been celebrated in the Protectorate.

DEATHS.

The following deaths have occurred:—

The Rev. Father Guilleux, of the Marist Mission. Accidentally drowned by the capsizing of a canoe on 27th May, 1902.

A. J. Rabut, planter. Accidentally killed by the falling of a branch of a tree at Lunga, Guadalcanar, on the 9th September, 1902.

Andrew J. Bennett, diver. Died at Manning Straits on the 19th September, 1902, from natural causes.

Fred. Schwieger, lay missionary, Plymouth Brother. Died at Mallu, Mala, on the 26th January, 1903. Cause of death, fever and want of medical comforts and proper food.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue, as foreseen, shows a falling off from the amount received during the previous financial year but a satisfactory excess over the amount estimated for.

The reason for the deficiency is to be found in the smaller sum received by way of Ship License from Queensland labour ships in consequence of the enactment by the Commonwealth Government of Australia of "The Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," and the consequent proximate cessation of the Queensland labour trade.

The amount contributed to the revenue by Queensland labour ships during the financial year 1901-1902 was £960. During the period under review, the amount received was only £660, a falling off of just £300.

The revenue for the year under the head of Capitation License has produced £256, against £214 for the year 1901-1902, and Station License, £206, against £166 for 1901-1902.

In fact all heads of revenue derived from local sources show satisfactory augmentation, and denote a state of progress within the Protectorate itself.

It is confidently expected that such progress will be more rapid when the disturbing effects of the Queensland and Fiji labour trade have ceased, as a very large number of labourers will be required in the immediate future for local industries.

The total decrease in revenue for the past year, as compared with 1901-1902, amounts to less than £150, a result which, under the circumstances, must be considered eminently satisfactory.

The expenditure for the year has amounted to £2,180, a sum which exceeds the estimate by £68.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Period.						Revenue.	Expenditure.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-1898	...	...	...	...	...	957 3 11	1,933 2 0
1898-1899	...	...	...	...	...	1,257 7 10	1,030 1 8
1899-1900	...	...	...	...	...	1,457 1 6	3,120 2 0
1900-1901	...	...	...	...	...	1,903 11 11	1,926 13 7
1901-1902	...	...	...	...	...	1,907 3 7	2,179 8 1
1902-1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,758 17 8	2,180 11 0
Estimate 1903-1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,574 0 0	2,225 10 0

STATEMENT OF FUNDS IN HAND AT 31st MARCH, 1903.

Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney,	£ s. d.
31st March, 1903	812 5 9
Cash in Chest, 31st March, 1903	537 13 2
Total	£1,349 18 11
Less amount due to estates of persons deceased	277 17 2
Total Protectorate funds in hand at 31st March, 1903	£1,072 1 9

STATEMENT OF EXPORTS FOR EIGHT YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1903.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell Black Edged.	Mother o' Pearl Gold Edged.	Turtle Shell.	Bêche de Mer.	Green Snail Shell.	Trocas Shell.	Rattans.	Coco Nuts.
1895	Tons.	Tons.	T. c.	T. c.	lbs.	T. c.	T. c.	Tons.	Bundles.	Bags.
1896	1,200	586	6-10	—	891	7-18	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1897 to 31st March, 1898	1,383	600	8-9½	—	1,379	3-15	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1898 to 31st March, 1899	1,688	580	8-3½	—	3,149	5-10	—	—	290	129
1st April, 1899 to 31st March, 1900	1,456	85	8-15½	—	3,133	4-6½	—	—	—	5
1st April, 1900 to 31st March, 1901	1,651	20	9-17½	6-0	3,238	5-9¾	31-64	—	—	20
1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902	2,188	160	9-3	12-16	2,318	22-17	19-0	—	—	15
1st April, 1902 to 31st March, 1903	2,315	132	8-10½	18-12	2,730	7-4	8-5	—	—	1
	2,505	265	7-16½	11-9	2,138	13-8	93-0	3	—	3

Statement of Exports for eight years ending 31st March, 1903—continued.

Period.	Palm Seeds.	Oil.	Plants.	Curios &c.	Canoes.	Maize.	Sandalwood.	Fungus.	Pearls.	Copper (old).	Sundries.
1895	Bags.	Cask.	Cases.	Cases.	—	Bushels.	T. c.	Bags.	Value.	Cwt.	Cases.
1896	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1897 to 31st March, 1898	7	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1898 to 31st March, 1899	Box	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1899 to 31st March, 1900	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1900 to 31st March, 1901	—	—	3	15	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902	—	—	2	54	4	160	7	—	—	—	9
1st April, 1902 to 31st March, 1903	—	—	3	6	2	164	9-3	3	£100	10	4

TRADE.

EXPORTS.

Estimated value £32,203, as against £32,076 for the year 1901-1902, £28,260 for the year 1900-1901, £21,381 for the year 1899-1900, and £16,818 for the year 1898-1899.

For purposes of comparison, attention may be drawn to the fact that the value of the exports from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate are more than double the value of the exports from British New Guinea (excluding gold), according to the latest available return from that Colony.

The amount of copra exported shows a progressive increase over the return for the previous twelve months, but the price realised has not been quite so satisfactory. For the purpose of valuation the price has been taken at £10 per ton, a figure which is really below the average price received during the past twelve months, as against £12 per ton for the year 1901-1902.

The produce of the coco-nut plantations formed by white people is now commencing to have an effect upon the copra export. Hitherto all copra exported has been native produce.

Ivory nuts, the fruit of the sago palm (*Sagus amicarum*), are coming again into demand. There is no doubt that if care is taken to ship them in proper condition, the demand will be a continuous and increasing one. The Protectorate can furnish an inexhaustible supply if they are required.

About eight years ago the price of ivory nuts rose to £12 a ton in Sydney. The consequence was that traders left off collecting copra, and even fishing for pearl shell, and devoted themselves to the collection of ivory nuts.

- Freshly fallen (they should never be gathered) or collected ivory nuts contain as much as 50 per cent. of moisture. The consequence was that the nuts being shipped in a green state, a very large number of them went rotten and so brought the Solomon Island product into disrepute, and occasioned such a fall in prices that they were not worth shipping.

During the last five years the demand has gradually risen again. The quality of the nuts shipped has been good, because traders have been forced to keep them several months and even for over a year, so that they were thoroughly dry before shipment.

It is feared that, with the increased demand, they will be once more shipped in a green state, and that the market will be again ruined.

The steamer proprietors are as much to blame as the traders in this respect, as having contracted to supply so many tons

of nuts they urge the traders to ship green or dry. The loss, of course, eventually recoils upon both.

No ivory nuts should be shipped until they have lain at least four months in store here and all decayed or rotten nuts have been removed.

Green Snail Shell.—A regular market seems at last to have been found for this product, and as it could be shipped in very much larger quantities, if the price were satisfactory, it is to be hoped that the traders will ship none but the best quality shells. About 900 shells go to the ton, and the price realised at the London auction sales is from 5*d.* to 5½*d.* a piece.

Other Shells.—Enquiries have been made by the Resident Commissioner and replies received by him from London and Paris upon the subject of other shells.

It is believed that a trade may be done in *Nautilus pompilius*, *Cassius rufus*, and *Trocas* shells.

Of the last kind France alone imports annually about two millions of kilos. A trial shipment of three tons has already been made at a satisfactory price, and further shipments will follow.

The declared value of pearls exported by no means represents the total value of the export. One pearl alone of exceptional size and quality, was estimated to be worth more than double the total amount declared.

Maize.—A small quantity of maize was sent to Sydney and produced the best of the almost famine prices then ruling in the Sydney market. It seems, however, probable, that even as a catch-crop our planters will not find it worth while to grow maize, as the clearing and planting of coco-nuts demands their full attention.

IMPORTS.

In response to an enquiry received from the Commonwealth Government of Australia, an attempt is made to tabulate the imports. It has been found possible to give a return of the imports from the Port of Sydney only.

The imports in Queensland labour ships are not included in the list. If they were taken into consideration, the total amount of tobacco imported would considerably exceed 50 tons.

It will be interesting to view the effect upon the Island of Mala of the cessation of recruiting. Up to the present time, tobacco and other trade has been poured out upon Mala by labour ships for the purchase of recruits. The Mala natives will not in future be able to do without it, consequently they will either have to go to work locally in the Protectorate or convert their rifles into agricultural implements and produce some saleable commodity on their own account.

IMPORTS FROM PORT OF SYDNEY ONLY.

From 1st April, 1902, to 31st March, 1903.

Acid, 3 cases.	Canvas, 7 bales, 1 truss, 1 package.
Adzes, 3 cases.	Cartridges, sporting, 6 boxes.
Agricultural implements, 6 packages.	Castor oil, 3 drums.
Anchors, 22.	Castings, 6.
Apples, green, 14 boxes.	Casks, 2.
„ evaporated, 5 cases.	Cement, 6 casks.
Asparagus, tinned, 15 cases.	Cheese, 14 cases.
Axes, 92 cases.	Church furniture, 13 cases.
Axe handles, 21 cases.	Chain, 18 lengths, 2 casks.
	Cigars, 23 cases.
Beads, 19 cases.	Cigarettes, 7 cases.
Bacon, 8 cases, 2 sides.	Clothing, 2 bales, 15 cases.
Baths, 3.	Coal, 500 tons.
Baking powder, 2 cases.	Coal tar, 12 barrels.
Beer, 30 cases.	Crockery, 5 cases.
Beeswax, 1 parcel.	Cutlery, 3 cases.
Biscuits, 3 tanks, 434 crates.	Cutter and gear, 1.
Blackboards, 1 package.	Cultivator, 1.
Bamboo blinds, 2 bales.	Curry powder, 6 cases.
Blocks, ships, 1 case.	
Bloaters, 2 cases.	Diving gear, 3 cases.
Blankets, 2 bales.	Doors, 24.
Boilers, 2 only, 1 cask.	Drapery, 163 cases.
Boiler stands, 2.	Dripping, 22 cases.
Boats and gear, 30.	Drills, 1 bundle.
Boxes, wooden trade, 249.	Drugs, 28 cases.
„ cedar, 97.	
„ camphor wood, 6.	Earthenware, 7 cases.
Bolts and nuts, 2 cases.	Enamelware, 7 cases.
Books, 9 cases.	Effects, 4 cases.
Boots and shoes, 7 cases.	
Bottles, glass and stone, 16 crates.	Felt, roofing, 1 roll.
Brass rods, 1 package.	Fish hooks, 2 cases, 1 parcel.
Brandy, 9 cases.	Fish, tinned, 5 cases.
Brilliant shine, 6 cases.	Florida water, 1 case.
Brooms, 3 cases.	Flour, 208 crates, 82 bags, 2 barrels.
Broom handles, 2 bundles.	Flags, 1 package.
Buckets, galvanized, 55 bundles.	Fruit, canned, 55 cases.
Butter, 42 cases.	Frying pans, 3 cases.
	Furniture, 52 packages.
Cakes, 3 cases.	
Camp pies, 7 cases.	Geneva, 72 cases.
Candles, 42 boxes.	Glassware, 11 cases.
Caps and hats, 2 parcels, 3 cases.	Groceries, 24 cases.
	Green peas, tinned, 3 cases.

Imports from Port of Sydney only.—cont.

Grindstones, 4.	Meats, tinned, 335 cases.
Guns, sporting, 2.	„ salt, 108 casks.
Hay, 48 bales.	Metal rods, 1.
Hardware, 75 cases.	„ castings, 2
Hawse pipes, 7.	Milk, tinned, 76 cases.
Hatchets, 8 cases.	Mineral waters, 25 cases.
Herrings, tinned, 14 cases.	Mirrors, 3 cases.
Hollow-ware, 21 cases.	Mouth organs, 2 cases.
Instruments, 2 cases.	Musical instruments, 3 cases.
Iron, bars, 7 bundles.	Muntz metal, 5 cases.
„ ballast, 2 tons.	Nails, 28 cases.
„ sheets, 3 cases.	Nets, fishing, 2.
„ galvanized ridging,	Neat's foot oil, 4 cases.
6 bundles.	Oakum, 5 bales.
„ galvanized roofing,	Onions, 153 boxes.
5 cases.	Oars, 63, and 5 bundles.
„ galvanized guttering,	Oil, 54 drums, 3 casks.
8 bundles.	Oilskin coats, 2.
„ -ware, 17 bundles.	Ore bags, 4 bales.
„ hooping, 9 bundles.	Ox tongues, 2 kegs.
„ fencing wire, 13 coils.	Paints, 136 kegs, and 6 cases.
„ piping, 11 bundles.	Painkiller, 1 case.
„ angle, 1 bundle.	Peas, 53 bags.
„ pots, 55.	Photographic Materials,
„ rails, 1 bundle.	1 case.
Ironmongery, 9 cases.	Phonographic materials,
Jams, 36 cases.	6 packages.
Jewellery, 2 parcels.	Pickles, 8 cases.
Jew's harps, 5 cases.	Pictures, 2 cases.
Kerosene, 225 cases.	Pipes, clay, 35 cases,
Knives, 31 cases.	216 boxes.
Lawn mower, 1.	„ wood, 9 cases.
Luggage, 10 pieces.	Piping, for diving gear, 1 case.
Lard, 8 cases.	Plane irons, 3 cases.
Lanterns, 33 cases.	Provisions, 78 casks, and
Lamps, 1.	63 cases.
Lampware, 1 case.	Potatoes, 305 cases.
Leather, 3 bundles.	Prunes, 2 cases.
Linoleum, 1 roll.	Poultry, 5 crates.
Machinery, 4 cases.	Puddings, 3 cases.
Matches, wood, 3 cases.	Rabbits, tinned, 1 case.
Matting, 2 rolls.	Rice, 2 tanks, 3,511 bags.
	Rope, Manilla, 61 coils.
	Rum, 1 octave.
	Rudder, 1.

Imports from Port of Sydney only.—cont.

Safes, 2.	Sundries, 265 cases.
Sails, 13 tales.	Syrup, 18 cases, 1 keg.
Sardines, 22 cases.	
Salt, 16 cases, 5 bags.	Tanks, 31.
Salmon, 63 cases.	Tea, 42 cases.
Sauce, 13 cases.	Tinware, 1 case.
Sashes, window, 14 packages.	Timber, 66,005 feet.
Sarsaparilla, 2 cases.	" box, 50 bundles.
Ship chandlery, 1 case.	" frames, 29.
Seeds, 1 parcel.	Tools, 2 packages.
Shackles, 1 case.	Trunks, empty, 25 nests.
Sheep, 70.	Tobacco, trade, 33 tons, 14 cwt.
Sash weights, 90.	" smoking, 30 boxes.
Sausages, 7 cases.	Tomato sauce, 5 cases.
Saws, 3 packages.	Tubs, galvanized, 3 bundles,
Scales, 2 cases.	and 12.
Scent, 2 cases.	Turpentine, 3 cases.
Screws, 2 cases.	Twine, 1 bale, 1 truss, 2 cases,
Sherbet, 3 boxes.	1 bundle.
Silver coin, £30.	
School furniture, 1 package.	Umbrellas, 5 cases.
Soups, 2 cases.	
Soap, 3 drums, 69 boxes.	Varnish, 3 drums.
Soda, 1 bag.	Vegetables, tinned, 3 cases.
Spades, 1 bundle.	" green, 1 bag.
Shovels, 24, and 1 bundle.	Vestas, 85 cases.
Spars, 12.	Vinegar, 14 cases.
Spun yarn, 1 package.	Vices, 2.
Stationery, 6 packages.	
Staples, 2 kegs.	Whiskey, 91 cases.
Statues, 2.	Whetstones, 2 cases.
Stockholm tar, 4 drums,	Wine, sparkling, 10 cases.
1 barrel.	" still, 54 cases, 6 casks.
Stones, hewn, 420.	Wire netting, 14 rolls.
Suet, 1 keg.	" rope, 22 coils.
Stoves, 9.	Watering pots, 6.
Sugar, in crates, 60 crates.	Wheelbarrows, 2.
" in bags, 145 bags.	

LABOUR TRADE.

Nine labour ships visited the Protectorate during the year, of which number one was recruiting for Fiji, and eight for Queensland.

The Fiji vessel made one trip, and the eight Queensland vessels fourteen trips.

The Queensland labour vessel "Sybil" left the Protectorate direct for Queensland about the end of April, 1902, and has not since been heard of. It is supposed that there were about 100 people on board.

The labour vessel "Ivanhoe" from Queensland, with 133 returning passengers on board, parted her cables and went ashore at Baranage Anchorage on 3rd March, 1903. After remaining for seventeen days on the reef, she was floated off with assistance.

After temporary repairs, which are now being effected, she will proceed to Queensland, as she is not in a fit condition to be allowed to carry native passengers. Her return passengers are being landed by the Government Vessel "Lahloo."

No report of attacks upon the boats of labour vessels has been received during the period under consideration.

A dispute having occurred between the Master and the Government Agent of the Queensland vessel "Sydney Belle," during her recruiting voyage to the Protectorate in September, 1902, it was necessary for the Resident Commissioner's Assistant, Mr. Hazelton, to remain on board the vessel during her stay in the Protectorate.

An enquiry into the circumstances of the dispute has been since held in Queensland, and both the Master and Government Agent have been debarred from engaging in the trade in future.

Recruiting for service on the Queensland plantations ceases during the present year under the provisions of "The Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," and in fact may be said practically to have ceased already, as licenses for the full number of labourers who are permitted to enter Queensland under the terms of the Act during 1903 have already been issued.

There remains a large number of Pacific Islanders to be returned from Queensland during the next four or five years.

Acting upon the supposition that all Pacific Islanders would be compulsorily deported from Queensland under the terms of "The Pacific Island Labourers Act," arrangements were made here to provide land for such deportees as would have been unable to return to their own homes without risk, owing to crimes committed by them before their departure for Queensland or for other reasons.

The official estimate of the number of Pacific Islanders in Queensland at the end of 1901 was 9,841, according to the Immigration Agent's Report for 1902, and as a larger number than usual were returned during 1902, and the process of returning still continues, if the number at present in Queensland is taken to be about 9,500, it will not be very wide of the mark.

The number recruited during 1900 was 1,743, and 1,681 during 1901.

Assuming a somewhat similar number to have been recruited during 1902 (the Immigration Agent's Report for that year is not yet available), the number recruited during the last three years will amount to over 5,000.

Hence it will appear that there must be rather more than 4,000 natives still in Queensland, who for some reason or other did not return at the expiration of their three years' engagement.

Of this number it will be fair to assume that 2,500 belong to the Solomons, and 1,500 to the New Hebrides, Banks Islands, and Torres Group.

In the event of the whole of these 2,500 Solomon Islanders being compulsorily deported after 31st December, 1906, under the terms of the "Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," it is to be supposed that the great majority of them would be able to return to their homes with no more risk or inconvenience than is at present incurred by any returning Solomon Islander.

The returning islander, like the schoolboy with a hamper, is a person with many friends. The annexation by his countrymen of the returning labourer's box and property within a few days or even hours of his landing, is a certainty in any case.

In the case of bushmen, they would have on landing to run the gauntlet of the coast natives, as at present, and there is no doubt that the risk of loss of life is a real one.

It is, however, presumed that the return of time-expired labourers who are willing to return, as at present, will proceed as before, and, therefore, if the "Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," is rigidly enforced, there might be about 500 Solomon Islanders to make provision for here after 1906.

The local demand for labourers is a constantly increasing one, and there would be no difficulty whatever in finding employment for such a number or even a larger number, upon the plantations which will then be in operation.

There will be some, of course, who will be either too old or unwilling to work upon plantations.

Some of these will have opportunities of settling in the neighbourhood of Mission Stations, and every facility will be afforded by the Government for them to do so provided a white missionary is permanently resident at such stations.

For the remainder, provision might have to be made, and land was reserved with that view.

As, however, official information has been received from His Excellency The Governor of Queensland that his Government has decided to allow these people to remain in Queensland, although it would appear to be rather a question for the Commonwealth Government, it was not expected that any would be sent away.

It would therefore appear that the reservation of land in advance was unnecessary.

Representations were made to His Excellency The Lieutenant-Governor of Queensland in 1901 upon the subject of the introduction of arms and ammunition by Queensland labour vessels. In consequence, the Chief Secretary of Queensland proposed to take more stringent measures for searching vessels for arms and ammunition previous to their departure from Queensland. In November, 1901, the Chief Secretary writes, "Under the stringent measures now to be adopted, it is unlikely that occasion will arise for further complaint in the matter."

In spite of the stringent measures referred to, the discoveries of arms and ammunition on board Queensland labour vessels after their arrival in the Solomons during the past year have been larger than ever before. It is a safe assertion to make, that not a single labour vessel leaves Queensland without a quantity of arms, ammunition, and dynamite concealed on board.

Mr. Mahaffy, in his Report of his visit to the Island of Mala in His Majesty's Ship "Sparrow," estimates that 80 per cent. of the Mala natives are supplied with rifles.

In August, 1902, a rifle was discovered hidden in the pump well of the "Lochiel" during her voyage from Queensland to the Solomons, and the Government Agent in reporting the case, said that several more were supposed to be on board.

After the arrival here of the "Lochiel," Mr. Hazelton discovered a belt full of Snider ammunition concealed upon the person of a woman by way of a chest protector.

In December, 1902, two rifles were recovered from natives of Guadalcanar who had been landed by the Queensland vessel "Coquette" in the previous August. A letter received at the same time from ex-police sergeant William Buruku, states that five other rifles were landed out of the same ship at the same time.

In consequence of the stranding of the "Ivanhoe," four native police were put on board to assist in getting the vessel afloat. During the process of discharging the ballast, they discovered dynamite cartridges already fitted with fuze and detonators among the stone ballast in the women's quarters.

After such a discovery, it is not to be wondered at that labour ships disappear at sea and are not heard of again.

Five rifles and a quantity of ammunition were recovered from the same vessel. One of the native boat's crew, a most notorious character named Harry Harris, had received £2 a piece for concealing these rifles during the voyage.

A fine of about £25, in addition to a term of imprisonment, was imposed upon this individual. The fine was at once paid.

It is evident that the risk of the introduction of arms and ammunition is as great, in fact very much greater, when labourers are being returned to their homes than when recruiting only is going on.

The risk will consequently continue so long as there is a labourer in Queensland to be returned, or until the business of landing return labourers is taken over by the Protectorate Authorities.

SHIPPING.

The service with Sydney remains as before, the steamer leaving Sydney on the first of every alternate month, and arriving, at the end of nearly a month's voyage, in the Solomons after a dreary procession round a greater portion of the Western Pacific.

This state of things is rendered necessary on account of the subsidy paid by the Commonwealth Government of Australia for the support of a monthly mail service to Norfolk Island and the New Hebrides.

It has been found at last that the present steamer, the "Titus," is too small for the Solomon Islands trade, and a larger and better steamer is to be at once provided. This is due to the increasing number of passengers as well as the larger quantity of cargo that has to be carried.

Where the large number of passengers sometimes travelling on board the "Titus" have been able to shake themselves down, is a mystery known only to the initiated.

Messrs. Burns, Philp, & Company, the owners of the present subsidised service, assert that they are running their island

steamers, with the exception of the Solomon Islands steamer, at a loss.

This is doubtless the fact, as the amount of cargo and passengers from Norfolk Island and the New Hebrides is not sufficient to support a monthly steamer. In the case of the New Hebrides, there is also communication with Sydney by the inter-insular French steamer *viâ* Noumea. Mails and passengers from the New Hebrides can arrive in Sydney in a shorter time, *viâ* Noumea, than by the subsidised Sydney steamer, which has to call at Norfolk Island both going and coming.

As practically the whole of the Protectorate imports and exports come from and go to Sydney, the Solomon Islands would seem to be entitled to such consideration at the hands of the Commonwealth Government as to admit of a direct service. The mail subsidy for the New Hebrides and Norfolk Island is the present obstacle.

The number of coasting vessels engaged in the local trade has been increased during the year by the arrival of a fine new schooner of over 60 tons fitted with auxiliary oil engines, built in Sydney Harbour to the order of a local trader, and a ketch bought from the Queensland Government by the same owner.

A new schooner of 30 tons, also built in Sydney, arrived to the order of a western trader, but she was unfortunately lost shortly after her arrival.

Another loss was that of the schooner "Eclipse" owned by the Marist Mission. During salving operations attempted in connection with this vessel, the Rev. Father Guilleux was unfortunately drowned.

The "Eclipse" was also a Sydney built vessel, and her loss will be replaced by another vessel built in Sydney.

It will therefore be seen that the value of the list of imports given above by no means represents the total of the amount by which Australia benefits from the Solomon Islands trade.

AGRICULTURE.

The area under coco-nuts, planted by white owners on the 31st March, 1903, was as follows. A comparison with the two previous returns shows substantial progress, and requires no comment:—

Plantation.						1901.	1902.	1903.
						Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Santa Anna	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	20
Ugi ...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	10
Marau Sound	...	...	...	...	...	35	35	35
Kaukau	...	...	...	...	...	100	100	100
Aola	...	...	...	...	...	200	200	200
Bara	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	3
Lunga	...	...	...	...	...	100	425	875
Gavutu	...	...	...	...	...	30	30	30
Rua Sura	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	25
Vinula	...	...	...	...	...	—	10	10
Government Station, Tulagi	...	...	...	...	...	75	105	135
" " Gizo	...	...	...	...	...	10	75	75
Lilihina	...	...	...	...	...	—	5	5
Rubiana	...	...	...	...	...	50	50	50
Faisi...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	10
Poporang	...	...	...	...	...	20	20	20
Awa ...	...	...	...	...	...	25	25	25
Fauro	...	...	...	...	...	300	300	300
Gizo Logo	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	30
Total ...						988	1,423	1,958

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following is a table showing the rainfall observed at the Government Station at Tulagi, since September, 1897, in inches:—

—		1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
January	...	—	9.51	14.27	12.20	10.93	18.31	3.96
February	...	—	28.55	12.04	3.09	12.46	27.76	14.12
March	...	—	27.89	17.47	13.48	10.83	22.39	10.73
April	...	—	6.67	20.48	2.29	6.75	8.53	5.68
May	...	—	4.19	8.85	5.83	17.59	4.55	3.84
June	...	—	4.86	1.26	3.20	10.69	7.85	—
July	...	—	4.86	24.27	3.24	5.53	9.02	—
August	...	—	9.94	8.33	3.01	13.24	14.70	—
September	...	—	10.58	10.92	5.41	10.35	6.25	—
October	...	2.91	10.23	11.21	9.12	15.60	6.65	—
November	...	5.66	21.14	7.89	10.62	7.97	6.83	—
December	...	11.03	8.97	19.03	10.83	11.91	9.86	—
		19.60	147.39	156.02	82.32	133.85	142.70	38.33

Compare with the above—

	Inches.
Rainfall at Santa Anna in 1883...	125·03
Rainfall at Ugi in 1883 ...	146·24

Monthly average rainfall at Tulagi for the past six years:—

	Inches.
January ...	11·53
February ...	16·34
March ...	17·13
April ...	8·40
May ...	7·47
June (5 years) ...	5·57
July „ ...	9·38
August „ ...	9·84
September „ ...	8·72
October ...	9·29
November ...	10·02
December ...	11·94

The annual average rainfall for the five years ending December, 1902, was 132·46 inches.

As enquiries have been received upon the subject of hurricanes, it cannot be too widely known that hurricanes do not occur in the Solomon Islands.

In this respect, the Protectorate has the advantage over most of the island groups of the Pacific situated further from the equator.

Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the New Hebrides, and the eastern groups are all subject to the periodical visitation of these cyclonic storms, during which the labour of years may be swept away in a few hours.

For this, among other reasons, not the least of which is the regular and plentiful rainfall, the climate of the Solomons presents advantages equalled by no other group in the Western Pacific for the formation of plantations of all kinds of tropical produce.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS.

H.M.S. "Dart," Commander Pasco, was occupied on surveying duty within the Protectorate from June 8th to November 29th. Surveying operations were to some extent interfered with by the prevalence of thick and boisterous weather. The survey of Gavutu and Tulagi anchorages was completed, and a preliminary survey made of the Island of Ysabel.

H.M.S. "Sparrow," Lieutenant-Commander Coates, visited the Protectorate for the second year in succession. The visit was but a brief one, extending only from September 13th to October 3rd.

Most of this time was occupied in a visit to the Island of Mala, where excellent work was accomplished. Punishment was inflicted upon the natives of Oru for a very brutal murder of a native near Auki, the village of Qui or Kwai was burnt in default of the surrender of the native Avu, the murderer of a Fijian woman, wife of Waisaki, a native Christian, and the two murderers of Amisia, another native Christian, were arrested at Beresombua.

No foreign warship visited the Protectorate during the year.

GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI.

The Residence and other buildings have been maintained in good order, but repairs will shortly be required at the native quarters.

The stone causeway and steps leading up to the Residence have been further extended, and will eventually be carried down to the landing place.

A new boat wharf has been built, very much superior to the old one. The piles employed are of the wood known locally as "vuvula," (*Afzelia bijuga*), an extremely hard and lasting timber, which is said to resist the attacks of the teredo worm.

The total area of land under cultivation has been increased from 120 to 150 acres; the area under coco-nuts, from 105 to 135 acres.

Many of the young coco-nuts, of from three and a half to four years old, are showing signs of blossom and nuts, and young trees, upwards of four years' old, are producing a return.

The coco-nuts are planted 33 feet apart, giving 40 trees to the acre. The growth has been so vigorous that in the older part of the plantation the leaves of adjoining trees overlap.

It appears certain that, whatever system of planting may be found suitable for the more puny growth of coco-nuts in the New Hebrides and other Pacific Islands, anything less than 33 feet apart would be unsuitable for the Solomons.

PRISONS.

The number of native prisoners under detention at the Government Stations during the year was 22.

The offences for which they were detained were as follows:—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	2
Adultery	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wilful damage to native gardens	...	...	...	...	...	3
Smuggling arms and ammunition	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inciting to breach of peace	...	...	...	...	...	3
Assault	...	...	...	...	...	3
Theft	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	22
						—

The number of prisoners under detention on the 31st March was 12.

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1903.





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REPORT FOR 1903-4 AND 1904-5.

(For Report for 1902-3, see No. 401.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
September, 1905.



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(For Report for 1902-3 *see* No. 401.)

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COMMISSIONER WOODFORD to MR. LYTTTELTON.

... 8

Government Residence,

Solomon Islands,

1st April, 1905.

... 23

SIR,

... 27

I HAVE the honour herewith, in order to avoid the delay of transmission *via* Fiji, to forward, for your information, a copy of my report upon the affairs of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate for the two years ended on the 31st March, 1905.

... 29

I have, &c.,

... 30

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

... 32

... 33

REPORT ON THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FROM 1st APRIL, 1903, TO 31st MARCH, 1905.

POPULATION.

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The white and foreign population of the Protectorate, which numbered 91 at the 31st March, 1903, has, during the two years ending 31st March, 1905, increased to 110. Of this number 88 were males and 22 females. Their employments and occupations were as follows:—

In Government employment...	...	...	6
Marist Mission	...	...	16
Melanesian Mission	...	...	3
Wesleyan Methodist Mission	...	...	2
Queensland Kanaka Mission	...	...	3
Engaged in trading, fishing, planting, and working for wages	...	...	61
Women and children, exclusive of Sisters attached to Marist Mission	...	...	19
			110

Their nationalities were as follows:—

British	...	...	...	...	75
French (Marist Mission)	...	...	...	...	16
Germans	...	...	...	...	3
Scandinavians	...	...	...	...	2
Russian	...	...	...	...	1
Swiss	...	...	...	...	1
Malays	...	...	...	...	2
Half-castes (British)	...	...	...	...	10
					110

BIRTHS.

There was one birth registered during 1903-4 and two during 1904-5.

MARRIAGES.

No marriages were celebrated in the Protectorate during the period under review.

DEATHS.

There were five deaths, all from natural causes, during 1903-4; one of these may be attributed to malarial fever; and four deaths during 1904-5, two of which were accidental and the others from natural causes.

NATIVE POPULATION.

It is at present quite impossible to state with anything approaching accuracy the number of the native population, but a rough estimate places the number at not less than 150,000.

By far the most populous island is the island of Mala or Malaita.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year 1903-4 amounted to £1,632 15s. 8d., and for the year 1904-5 reached the sum of £1,993 11s. 4d., the latter being the largest sum received in any year since the establishment of the Protectorate.

The heads under which it has been collected are shown in the subjoined statement.

It will clearly appear from the statement that the shrinkage in the total receipts which set in during 1902-3, in consequence of the smaller number of ship licences received, owing to the cessation of recruiting for Queensland under the operation of "The Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," through the enforcement of which recruiting ceased altogether at the end of 1903, has already been more than recovered, although the loss of revenue from this cause amounted in 1903-4 to £560, and in 1904-5 to no less than £760, as compared with what was received from labour vessels for ship licences in the year 1901-2.

The amount received under the headings of "Capitation," "Trading Station," and "Trading Ship Licences," which, at present, may be looked upon as the chief sources of revenue, show a satisfactory and steadily progressive increase.

The amount standing to the credit of "Miscellaneous Receipts" is mainly due to the earnings of the Government vessel "Lahlco." With a more suitable vessel, driven by steam power, a much larger revenue under this head will be received.

During the coming year it is confidently expected that the increase of revenue under all heads, except, perhaps, "Fines" and "Prospecting Licences," will be at least maintained and probably a much greater ratio of increase will be reached.

Revenue.

	1897-8.	1898-9.	1899-1900.	1900-1.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.
Judicial Fees, High Com- missioner's Court.	£ s. d. 6 17 5	£ s. d. 33 3 4	£ s. d. 3 7 7	£ s. d. 4 12 8	£ s. d. 8 10 6	£ s. d. 7 11 2	£ s. d. 20 9 3	£ s. d. 32 12 6
Fines ...	14 0 0	15 0 0	2 0 0	113 0 0	1 0 0	40 13 8	104 0 0	127 14 2
Registration Fees ...	1 14 6	1 5 0	0 16 0	—	4 12 0	3 6 0	3 3 0	4 9 0
Capitation Licenses ...	95 0 0	189 0 0	153 0 0	224 0 0	214 0 0	256 0 0	271 0 0	325 0 0
Station Licenses ...	72 0 0	92 0 0	90 0 0	156 0 0	166 0 0	206 0 0	146 0 0	212 0 0
Ship Licenses:—								
1. Trading†	387 12 0	324 7 0	453 16 0	431 15 0	365 18 0	364 18 0	426 4 0	463 10 0
2. Labour†	340 0 0	600 0 0	740 0 0	920 0 0	980 0 0	660 0 0	420 0 0	220 0 0
Prospecting Licenses	40 0 0	—	—	5 0 0	—	—	5 0 0	—
Rent ...	—	—	—	7 10 0	22 10 0	11 10 0	42 0 0	36 8 4
Tulagi Station†	—	—	—	—	3 14 3	12 0 6	29 10 3	53 15 3
Gizo Station†	—	—	—	33 1 3	41 12 2	62 8 4	74 9 2	105 5 9
Miscellaneous	—	2 12 6	6 0 0	8 13 0	99 6 8	134 10 0	91 0 0	378 16 4
Prison Labour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34 0 0
Total	957 3 11	1,257 7 10	1,448 19 7	1,903 11 11	1,907 3 7	1,758 17 8	1,632 15 8	1,993 11 4

* £30 of the Station License received in 1902-3 was paid in advance, so that the figures should read :—1902-3, £176 0s. 0d. ; 1903-4, £176 0s. 0d.

† In the above account the amount received for Ship License from Trading Vessels has been separated from the amount received from vessels engaged in the Queensland and Fiji labour trade. This distinction does not appear in the usual monthly Returns.

‡ The receipts under these headings are for copra grown on the Government Stations at Tulagi and Gizo—in the case of Tulagi from trees planted since the formation of the station, and in the case of Gizo from old trees already growing before the station was formed. The revenue under each heading will be increased in future, and the two may be expected eventually to total from £800 to £1,000 per annum.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1903-4 was £2,253 9s. 3d., and for the year 1904-5 reached £2,307 9s. 11d.

Upon the present establishment it is not expected that this amount will be exceeded in future, and if the estimated increase in the revenue is realised the receipts and expenditure should balance by the end of the next financial year. A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for eight years, showing the amount of deficiency or surplus in each year, is subjoined:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for Eight Years from 1897 to 1905.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficiency or Surplus.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897-1898	957 3 11	1,933 2 0	— 975 18 1
1898-1899	1,257 7 10	1,030 1 8	+ 227 6 2
1899-1900	1,448 19 7	3,120 2 0	— 1,671 2 5
1900-1901	1,903 11 11	1,926 13 7	— 23 1 8
1901-1902	1,907 3 7	2,179 8 1	— 272 4 6
1902-1903	1,758 17 8	2,180 11 0	— 421 13 4
1903-1904	1,632 15 8	2,253 9 3	— 620 13 7
1904-1905	1,993 11 4	2,307 9 11	— 313 18 7

The deficiency has been met by grants from Imperial funds received previous to or during 1900, and, as will appear from the following statements of funds in hand, a sum of £137 9s. 7d. remained unexpended at 31st March, 1905:—

Statement of Funds in Hand at 31st March, 1904.

Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney, 31st March, 1904	£131 3 9
Cash in chest, ditto	869 4 2
Total	£1,000 7 11
Less amounts due to estates of persons deceased	548 19 9
Total Protectorate funds in hand at 31st March, 1904	£451 8 2

Statement of Funds in Hand at 31st March, 1905.

Cash in Bank of New Zealand, Sydney,			
31st March, 1905	...	...	£509 12 10
Cash in chest, ditto	...	...	137 6 11
Total			£646 19 9
Less amounts due to estates of persons deceased			
...	...	...	509 10 2
Total Protectorate funds in hand at 31st March, 1905			
...	...	...	£137 9 7

Loan of £2,000 from High Commission Funds.

In the year 1902 the Protectorate was debited with a sum of £2,000, bearing interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., advanced from funds in the hands of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, for the purpose of extinguishing certain claims to land in the Protectorate put forward by the Deutsche Handels und Plantagen Gesellschaft of Hamburg.

During the year ending 31st March, 1905, the interest has not been remitted to the High Commissioner.

TRADE.

Previous to 1905 the steamer belonging to the firm of Burns, Philp and Company, Limited, which visited the Protectorate from Sydney every two months, thus affording a regular means of communication, outwards and inwards, six times a year, arrived only after a dreary procession round the Western Pacific, calling first at Lord Howe's Island, Norfolk Island, the New Hebrides, and, in addition, frequently at New Caledonia, and did not arrive at the Solomons until between three weeks and a month after leaving Sydney, although the direct distance is only about 1,750 miles.

The same tedious course was followed on the return voyage, with the exception of the omission of the call at New Caledonia.

A small subsidy, given chiefly for the purpose of maintaining regular communication with the New Hebrides and Norfolk Island, was paid by the New South Wales State Government for this service, which was continued by the Government of the Commonwealth after federation took place.

The majority of the freight carried, both outwards and inwards, was Solomon Island cargo.

During 1904 the Federal Government voted an increased subsidy, but relatively small when the services rendered are taken into consideration, under which Messrs. Burns, Philp

and Company undertook to provide a steamer to call monthly at Lord Howe's Island, Norfolk Island, and the New Hebrides; a steamer every three months *viâ* the New Hebrides to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate; a steamer from Sydney calling at Brisbane and thence direct to the Solomons, New Britain, and New Guinea every two months; a direct service from Sydney *viâ* Queensland ports to British New Guinea; and a steamer between Port Moresby and Cooktown.

In addition to the direct service with Sydney every two months, the Solomon Islands were to be served four times a year by a steamer calling direct from and to Sydney on the way to and return from the Marshall Islands and Northern Gilberts. This would have given the Solomons direct mail communication from and to Sydney ten times a year, in place of the six indirect calls by the old round-about route.

For the whole of the services mentioned Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company were to receive the very moderate subsidy of £12,000 per annum from the Federal Government of Australia.

In consequence, however, of the heavy licence fees for trading demanded from British vessels by the German authorities in the Marshall Islands, fees which were increased until they became absolutely prohibitive, the Marshall Island steamer had to abandon the service on her third trip.

In addition, all the traders in the Bismarek Archipelago have entered into an agreement to do business only with the Nord Deutsche Lloyd Company for a term of years, and, consequently, the present subsidised British service may shortly have to be rearranged as Messrs. Burns, Philp's steamer will abandon her present visit to that Archipelago.

The direct service to and from the Solomons from Sydney *viâ* Brisbane, six times a year, which commenced from January, 1905, is, however, a very great improvement upon the old service *viâ* the New Hebrides, and, upon the principle of half a loaf being better than no bread, residents in the Protectorate are proportionately grateful for it.

The whole of the trade of the Protectorate, both in exports and imports, is done with the port of Sydney, for although the Sydney steamer now takes its final departure from Brisbane, no attempt has yet been made by Brisbane merchants to compete for a share of the Solomon Islands trade.

From the tables of exports and imports for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1905, which appear on subsequent pages, it will be seen that the former are valued at £47,405, and the latter at £33,656, or a total trade of £81,061. Contrasting these figures with the statistics compiled by the Federal Customs authorities of the trade of New South Wales for the year 1904, it will appear that the value of the trade of the Protec-

torate with New South Wales, as compared with the trade between New South Wales and British Possessions, is equal to more than half the trade done with Canada, the Cape Colony, or the Straits Settlements, nearly equals the trade done with Natal, exceeds the trade done with British New Guinea, and is more than double the trade done with Mauritius.

Comparing the trade done by New South Wales with foreign countries, the trade of the Protectorate with New South Wales is about equal to half the trade with Italy, New Caledonia, or the Philippine Islands, equal to the trade with the Hawaiian Islands, nearly double the trade with the New Hebrides or Java, more than twice as much as the trade with New Britain and the Bismarck Archipelago, and eight times as much as the trade with the Marshall Islands.

The figures upon which the above deductions are based are as follows:—

Trade of New South Wales for 1904.

	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
Canada	129,065	25,557	154,622
Cape Colony	2,978	137,609	140,587
Straits Settlements	46,366	103,886	150,252
Natal	966	92,124	93,090
British New Guinea	39,299	31,774	71,073
Mauritius	16,699	21,594	38,293
Italy	76,945	112,012	188,957
New Caledonia	28,637	141,938	170,575
Philippine Islands... ..	21,523	145,730	167,253
Hawaiian Islands	81	86,115	86,196
New Hebrides	17,151	29,881	47,032
Java	19,877	31,032	50,909
New Britain	6,027	19,864	25,891
Marshall Islands	1,542	7,975	9,499

Compare with above British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

Exports to Sydney 1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905.	Imports from Sydney 1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905.	Total Trade with Sydney for Twelve Months.
£ 47,405	£ 33,656	£ 81,061

By quoting the above figures it is intended to draw attention to the fact that the trade of an hitherto almost unheard of place such as the Solomons with Sydney, the only port in Australia that has at present attempted to engage in trade with the Pacific Islands to any extent, compares favourably with the trade carried on between Sydney and other places which loom more conspicuously in the public eye.

The Solomon Islands trade is at present only in its infancy, but is expanding year by year. Whether it will continue exclusively in the hands of Sydney shippers and importers under the conditions which will shortly obtain is extremely doubtful.

Of the exports from the Protectorate, the most important article, viz., copra, at present enters Australia free of duty. Of the copra which enters Sydney from the Pacific, some is manufactured into oil and oil-cake in Sydney, but the majority is re-exported to Europe. Under the operation of the New South Wales Harbour Rates Act, copra, which is manufactured into oil and oil-cake in Sydney, is subject to a wharfage charge of 10*d.* per ton, while copra entering Sydney for re-exportation pays a wharfage charge of only 5*d.* per ton.

The other articles of export from the Protectorate are all re-exported from Sydney to Europe, with the exception of *bêche-de-mer*, which goes to China.

Pea-nuts would have been grown in the Protectorate, but the Federal tariff absolutely prohibits their production for manufacture in Australia. If they were admitted duty free it is believed that one Sydney firm alone would take 10,000 tons of these nuts per annum for the manufacture of oil and oil-cake.

Referring to the list of imports which appears below, it seems that such items only as biscuits, boats, trade boxes, butter, coal, flour, tinned fruit, jams, tinned meats, sugar, and hardwood timber are of Australian origin, the remainder being all of European or American production.

The only reason why the trade of the Protectorate is done exclusively with Sydney is from the fact that at present there is no steam communication with any other place.

That such conditions will not much longer prevail is certain. Before many years the output of copra will have so much increased that either a mill for crushing will be erected in the Protectorate or it will be freighted direct to Europe in sailing vessels.

The Nord Deutsche Lloyd Company having more recently, as mentioned above, by the offer of more advantageous terms of freight, practically closed the German New Guinea Colony

and the Bismarck Archipelago to Australian steamers, it is fully expected that before many months the company's vessels will extend their voyages to the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

As there is said to be no sentiment in business, it will follow that if, in consequence of the heavy subsidies and concessions received from the German Imperial Government, they are able to offer better terms of freight than those now prevailing, a large proportion, at least, both of the export and import trade of the Protectorate will be diverted from Sydney to Singapore.

Even under present conditions a considerable part of the import trade is done through the medium of a firm of enterprising German merchants in Sydney, which, apparently by more careful attention to their customers' requirements, are enabled successfully to compete with British merchants who appear to adhere to the idea of the "take it or leave it" policy.

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the past year has amounted to a sum of £47,405, an amount which has never previously been approached.

For purposes of comparison the returns for the previous six years are shown below:—

Estimated Value of Exports.

Year.				Amount.
				£
1898-1899	...	...	...	16,818
1899-1900	...	...	...	21,381
1900-1901	...	...	...	28,260
1901-1902	...	...	...	32,076
1902-1903	...	...	...	32,203
1903-1904	...	...	...	38,043
1904-1905	...	...	...	47,405

The descriptions and quantities of the exports in each year, commencing in 1895, are shown in the accompanying tabulated statement.

It will be noticed that the tonnage of copra exported has steadily increased, the total amount having nearly trebled in the past ten years and doubled in the last five.

The copra hitherto exported has been almost exclusively bought from the natives by way of trade, but the produce of the plantations made by white residents is now beginning to appear in the total.

During the next ten years a similar ratio of increase may be expected.

Copra will, at least for several years to come, continue to be the chief article of export, and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate is destined, before many years are passed, to be the chiefest source of production of copra from the Western Pacific.

Vegetable ivory nuts have been again in demand, and the amounts exported during each of the last two years have largely exceeded those of any previous annual period. The demand is a somewhat precarious one and depends to a certain extent upon the dictates of fashion, as the ultimate use to which the nuts are applied is in the manufacture of buttons. In the past it has not been the custom to take sufficient care to see that the nuts are to some extent dried before shipment. Freshly collected ivory nuts contain more than 50 per cent. of moisture, and if, as has frequently happened, they are shipped in this state, the consequence has been that they have deteriorated during the voyage to Europe and a large percentage has been useless.

Towards the end of the year the demand for ivory nuts had slackened, and the price offered had declined, in sympathy, although German buyers were offering more than British. During the coming year a reduced export is to be expected.

The price offered for pearl shell, both for black-edged and for mother-of-pearl, has seriously declined, and until higher prices rule no developments are to be looked for.

The same remarks apply to green snail shell and other shells.

The quantity of turtle shell shipped has been satisfactory, and the prices realised have been good.

Rattans again appear in the list of exports after an interval of six years. They require careful drying, but it is believed that more attention will be devoted to their preparation in future.

STATEMENT OF EXPORTS FOR TEN YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1905.

Period.	Copra.	Ivory Nuts.	Pearl Shell, Black Edge.	Mother o' Pearl, Gold Edge.	Turtle Shell.	Beche-de-Mer.	Green Snail Shell.	Trocas Shell.	Coconuts.	Palm Seeds.	Plants.	Curtos, &c.	Native Canoes.	Maize.	Sandalwood.	Fungus.	Pearls.	Rattans.	Natural History Specimens	Sundries.
	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Lbs.	Cwt.	T. c.	Tons.	Bags.	Bags.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Bushels.	T. c.	Bags.	Value.	Bundles.	Cases.	Cases.
1885	1,200	586	130	—	891	158	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1886	1,383	600	169½	—	1,379	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st January, 1887, to 31st March, 1888.	1,688	580	163½	—	3,149	110	—	—	129	7	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	290	—	—
1888-1889	1,456	85	175½	—	3,133	86½	—	—	5	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1889-1890	1,661	20	197½	120	3,238	109½	31 6	—	20	Box.	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1890-1891	2,188	100	183	256	2,318	457	19 0	—	15	—	3	15	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
1891-1892	2,315	132	170½	372	2,730	144	8 5	—	1	—	2	54	4	160	7 0	—	—	—	—	9
1892-1893	2,505	265	156½	229	2,138	288	93 0	3	3	—	3	6	2	164	9 3	3	£100	—	—	4
1893-1894	2,817	815	88	173	3,392	499	104 0	17	—	Package.	5	17	3	15	—	12	—	—	6	16
1894-1895	3,259	1,419	22	120	3,612	288	16 0	—	—	—	7	8	3	—	Rubber, 2 cwt.	—	—	131	5	38

IMPORTS.

A tabulated statement of the imports from Sydney for the last three years is given below. In the absence of any Customs duties or Customs Department from the Protectorate it must be regarded as approximate only. It has been compiled from the inward manifests of the Sydney steamers or sailing vessels arriving in the Protectorate from that port.

Previous to the year 1904-5 no attempt has been made to estimate the value of the imports. It is believed, however, that the estimated value of the total imports is an extremely moderate one, and that actually their value has exceeded the sum named.

It will be noticed that there has been a steady and progressive increase in the quantity of nearly all articles imported during the last two years.

The increase has been more especially marked in the case of axes, benzine, biscuits, drapery, flour, hardware, corrugated iron roofing, kerosene, lanterns and lampware, meats, naphtha, rice, rope, sugar, timber, and tobacco.

The estimated value of the chief articles imported during the year 1904-5 is as follows:—

Articles.				Value.
				£
Biscuits	...	...	...	1,500
Boats	...	...	...	1,260
Drapery	...	...	...	3,000
Clay pipes	...	...	...	1,023
Meats	...	...	...	2,308
Hardware	...	...	...	1,075
Rice	...	...	...	2,680
Timber	...	...	...	1,409
Tobacco	...	...	...	5,270

The value of all imports from Sydney for the year 1904-5 is estimated at £33,656 16s. 2d.

The following table gives the denomination and quantities of the articles imported:—

TABLE showing AMOUNT of IMPORTS from PORT of SYDNEY only for THREE YEARS ending 31st MARCH, 1905.

Denomination.			1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Acid	...	...	3 cases	3 cases	5 cases.
Accordeons	...	...	—	3 cases	2 cases.
Almonds	...	...	—	1 box	—
Anchors	...	...	22	17	37.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Asbestos	—	1 package ...	—
Asparagus	15 cases ...	17 cases ...	9 cases.
Anvils	—	—	2.
Anchovies	—	—	1 case.
Apples	14 boxes ...	18 boxes ...	—
Axes	95 cases ...	69 cases ...	155 cases.
Axe handles	21 cases ...	27 cases ...	33 cases.
Alcohol	—	—	1 drum.
Ass	—	—	1.
Bacon	8 cases, 2 sides	13 cases, 6 sides	18 cases.
Baking powder	2 cases ...	4 cases ...	2 cases.
Baskets	—	—	5 packages.
Baths	3	1	—
Beads	19 cases ...	31 cases ...	134 cases.
Bedding	—	3 packages ...	8 packages.
Bedsteads	—	9	13.
Beer	30 cases ..	134 cases ...	104 cases.
Beeswax	1 parcel ...	1 package ...	—
Bellows	—	—	2 bundles.
Bells	—	—	2.
Benzine	—	155 cases ...	355 cases.
Bicycles	—	1	1.
Biscuits	434 crates, 3 tanks.	874 crates ...	1145 crates, 1 tank.
Bamboo blinds	2 bundles ...	—	1 bundle.
Blankets	2 bales ...	18 bales ...	9 bales.
Blocks	1 case ...	3 cases ...	4 cases.
Blue	—	1 box ...	1 box.
Boats and gear	30	43	39.
Boilers	2 and 1 cask	3	23 and 3 packages.
Books	9 cases ...	7 cases ...	8 cases.
Boots and shoes	7 cases ...	9 cases ...	13 cases.
Bottles	16 crates ...	31 crates, 2 casks.	26 crates.
Boxes, trade	249	936	684.
Boxes, camphor wood	6	—	42.
Bran	—	3 bags ...	1 bag.
Brandy	9 cases ...	19 cases ...	7 cases
Brass rods	1 package ...	2 bundles ...	—
Bricks	—	—	150.
Brilliant shine	6 cases ...	—	—
Brooms	3 cases ...	6 bundles ...	3 bundles.
Broom handles	2 bundles ...	1 box ...	1 box.
Brown paper	—	1 bale ...	—
Buckets	55 bundles ...	34 bundles ...	29 bundles.
Butter	42 boxes ...	44 boxes ...	33 boxes.
Buoys	—	2	—
Cakes	3 cases ...	2 cases ...	4 cases.
Candles	42 boxes ...	8 boxes ...	15 boxes.
Canvas	7 bales, 1 truss, 1 package.	3 bales, 4 trusses, 1 package.	16 packages.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Caps and hats ...	2 parcels, 3 cases.	1 case ...	5 cases.
Cartridges ...	6 boxes ...	4 boxes ...	17 boxes.
Casks...	2 ...	—	—
Castor oil ...	3 drums ...	3 drums ...	2 drums.
Castings ...	6 ...	2 ...	2 casks, 1 package.
Camp ovens ...	—	—	2 crates.
Carbolic acid ...	—	2 drums ...	—
Cedar chests ...	97 ...	—	3 nests.
Cement ...	6 casks ...	37 casks ...	106 casks.
Chain ...	20 lengths ...	23 lengths ...	24 lengths.
Charts ...	—	—	1 package.
Cheese ...	14 cases ...	18 cases ...	16 cases.
Chemicals ...	—	—	4 casks.
Church furniture ...	13 cases ...	23 cases ...	6 cases.
Chinaware ...	—	—	1 case.
Cigars ...	23 cases ...	28 cases ...	11 cases.
Cigarettes ...	7 cases ...	9 cases ...	12 cases.
Clothing ...	2 bales, 15 cases.	2 cases ...	4 packages.
Clocks ...	—	1 case ...	—
Coal ...	500 tons ...	445 tons ...	400 tons.
Coal tar ...	12 barrels ...	19 drums, 2 barrels.	10 casks, 6 drums.
Coffee ...	—	6 cases	4 cases, 2 bags.
Cocoa ...	—	8 cases ...	4 cases.
Cornsacks ...	—	47 bales ...	28 bales.
Corks ...	—	3 packages ...	1 package.
Copper sheets...	—	3 packages ...	2 cases.
Copper boilers ...	—	—	2.
Cordials ...	—	8 cases ...	2 cases.
Cornflour ...	—	3 cases ...	—
Codfish ...	—	2 boxes ...	—
Crockery ...	5 cases ...	1 case ...	5 cases.
Cutlery ...	3 cases ...	—	6 cases.
Cutters and gear ...	1 ...	3 ...	—
Cultivators ...	7 ...	—	1.
Curry powder...	6 cases ...	3 cases ...	4 cases.
Curios ...	—	—	1 case.
Coin ...	—	—	1 box.
Diving gear ...	3 cases ...	—	—
Dogs ...	—	13 ...	27.
Doors ...	24 ...	6 packages ...	25 packages.
Drapery ...	163 cases and bales and packages.	251 cases and bales and packages.	376 cases and bales and packages.
Dripping ...	22 cases ...	5 cases ...	8 cases.
Drills ...	1 bundle ...	—	—
Drugs ...	28 cases ...	26 cases ...	26 cases.
Dynamos ...	—	—	3.
Dynamite ...	—	—	2 cases.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Earthenware ...	7 cases ...	16 cases ...	8 cases.
Enamel ware ...	7 cases ...	17 cases ...	46 cases.
Effects ...	4 cases ...	1 case ...	8 cases
Egg powder ...	—	—	1 case
Electric goods ...	—	1 case. ...	4 cases.
Feathers ...	—	1 box ...	—
Felt roofing ...	1 roll ...	—	—
Fish hooks ...	2 cases, 1 parcel.	13 cases ...	4 packages.
Fish (tinned)...	5 cases ...	5 cases ...	10 cases.
Fish dried ...	—	—	5 cases.
Fireworks ...	—	2 cases ...	2 cases.
Firebricks ...	—	1 cask ...	—
Flags ...	1 package ...	—	—
Florida water...	1 case ...	4 cases ...	1 case.
Flower pots ...	—	—	1 crate.
Flour ...	208 crates, 82 bags, 2 barrels.	183 crates, 215 bags.	223 crates, 117 bags.
Forge ...	—	—	1.
Formaline ...	—	1 box ...	1 box.
Forks (digging) ...	—	3 bundles ...	4 bundles.
Fruit (tinned) ...	55 cases ...	68 cases ...	113 cases.
Fruit evaporated ...	—	8 boxes ...	8 boxes.
Frying pans ...	3 cases ...	6 bundles ...	1 bundle.
Furniture ...	52 packages ...	11 packages ...	11 packages.
Geneva ...	72 cases ...	119 cases ...	106 cases.
Glassware ...	11 cases ...	9 cases ...	17 cases.
Glass ...	—	2 boxes ...	5 boxes.
Glue ...	—	4 tins ...	2 cases.
Grate ...	—	—	1.
Go-cart ...	—	—	1.
Groceries ...	24 cases ...	55 cases ...	60 cases.
Green peas ...	3 cases ...	3 cases ...	3 cases.
Grease...	—	3 packages ...	—
Grindstones ...	4 ...	14 ...	8.
Gramophones...	—	4 cases ...	6 cases.
Gramophone records	—	3 cases ...	1 case.
Guns ...	2 ...	4 ...	—
Hardware ...	75 cases ...	79 cases ...	215 cases.
Hay ...	48 bales ...	—	—
Harpoons ...	—	1 package ...	1 bundle.
Hawse pipes ...	7 ...	—	—
Harmoniums ...	—	2 ...	1.
Hams ...	—	2 cases ...	4 cases.
Hams, devilled ...	—	—	4 cases.
Hatchets ...	8 cases ...	14 cases ...	17 cases.
Hatchet heads ...	—	20 cases ...	7 cases.
Herrings ...	16 cases ...	5 cases ...	24 cases.
Hollow-ware ...	21 cases ...	2 casks, 9 cases.	30 casks.
Horses...	—	—	7.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Heney... ..	—	—	1 case.
Hops	—	4 boxes ...	1 bale.
Hoes	—	1 case ...	1 case.
Hoe handles	—	1 case ...	6 cases.
Instruments	2 cases ...	—	—
Iron ?—			
Bars	7 bundles ...	3 bundles ...	9 bundles.
Ballast	2 tons ...	2 tons ...	6 tons 4½ cwt.
Fittings	1 bundle ...	1 package ...	5 packages.
Hooping	9 bundles ...	4 bundles ...	8 bundles.
Piping	11 bundles ...	—	1 length and 1 bundle and 81 pieces.
Pots	55	—	28.
Rails	1 bundle ...	—	—
Sheets	3 cases ...	1 case ...	—
Ironware	17 bundles ...	5 bundles ...	1 package.
Galvanized fencing } wire	13 coils ...	14 coils ...	19 coils.
Galvanized gutter- } ing	8 bundles ...	8 bundles ...	4 bundles.
Galvanized ridging	6 bundles ...	6 bundles ...	9 bundles.
Galvanized corru- } gated roofing	5 cases ...	17 cases ...	46 cases.
Galvanized spouting	—	3 bundles ...	2 bundles.
Galvanized netting	14 rolls ...	32 rolls ...	46 rolls.
Ironmongery	12 packages ...	12 cases ...	32 packages.
Jams	36 cases ...	30 cases ...	41 cases.
Jewellery	2 parcels ...	—	—
Jew's harps	5 cases ...	5 cases ...	3 cases.
Joinery	—	—	48 packages.
Kava	—	1 bag ...	1 bag
Kerosene	225 cases ...	609 cases ...	631 cases.
Knives	31 cases ...	26 cases ...	57 cases.
Kapok... ..	—	—	1 bale.
Lanyard	—	1 package ...	2 packages.
Lanterns	33 cases ...	74 cases ...	95 cases.
Lamps	1 case ...	6 cases ...	2 cases.
Lamp globes	—	1 case ...	—
Lampware	1 case ...	3 cases ...	4 cases.
Lard	8 cases ...	—	6 cases.
Lawn mower	1	—	—
Launch	—	—	1.
Leather	3 bundles ...	1 package ...	2 packages.
Lemonade	—	—	1 cask.
Life-buoys	—	1 package ...	2 bundles.
Lime-juice	—	1 case ...	1 case
Linoleum	1 roll ...	—	1 roll and 1 case.
Lucerne	—	—	4 bales.
Luggage	10 pieces ...	—	—

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Lead	—	—	1 roll and 1 case.
Machinery	4 cases	2 cases	4 packages.
Maccaroni	—	—	1 box.
Magic lantern	—	—	1 case.
Maize	—	11 sacks	48 sacks.*
Masts	—	—	5.
Matches	88 cases	233 cases	193 cases.
Matting	2 rolls	—	1 roll.
Mattresses	—	6	3.
Meat extract	—	—	2 cases.
Meats, tinned	342 cases	501 cases	563 cases.
Meats, salt	108 casks	52 casks	12 casks.
Meats, smoked	—	—	2 cases.
Meat safes	—	—	1.
Metal rods	1	—	—
Metal castings	2	—	—
Methylated spirit	—	3 cases	1 case.
Milk	76 cases	80 cases	108 cases.
Mineral waters	25 cases	35 cases, 7 casks.	4 casks.
Mirrors	3 cases	1	4 cases and 1 only.
Mouth organs	2 cases	1 case	8 cases.
Musical instruments	3 cases	1 case	7 cases.
Muntz metal	5 cases	2 cases	10 cases.
Mustard	—	1 box	2 boxes.
Muscateles	—	1 box	—
Nails	23 cases	30 cases	15 cases.
Naphtha	—	20 cases	47 cases.
Neat's foot oil	4 cases	1 case	1 case.
Nets, fishing	2	—	—
Oakum	5 bales	4 bales	3 bales.
Oars	63 and 5 bundles.	26 bundles	46 bundles.
Oatmeal	—	—	4 boxes.
Oats	—	24 bags	—
Oil, paint	54 drums, 3 casks.	88 drums	86 drums.
Oil, lubricating	—	—	19 drums.
Oil, olive	—	3 cases	2 cases.
Oilskin coats	2	—	1 case and 1 bag.
Olives	—	—	2 cases.
Onions	153 boxes	192 boxes	228 boxes.
Ore bags	4 bales	—	—
Ox tongues	2 kegs	2 casks	1 case.
Painkiller	1 case	—	2 cases.
Paints	136 kegs, 6 cases	127 kegs	150 kegs.
Peas, blue	53 bags	1 bag	6 bags.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Pea soup	—	2 cases ...	—
Pepper	—	—	1 case.
Perfumery	—	—	1 case.
Paper bags	—	—	2 bundles.
Photographic goods ...	1 case ...	1 case ...	3 cases.
Phonographic goods...	6 packages ...	1 case ...	3 cases.
Pickles	8 cases ...	14 cases ...	10 cases.
Pictures	2 cases ...	—	1 case.
Picture frames ...	—	1 case ...	—
Pipes, clay	35 cases, 216 boxes.	224 cases ...	341 cases.
Pipes, wood	9 cases ...	18 cases ...	16 cases.
Pipe for diving gear ...	1 case ...	—	—
Pigs	—	42 ...	159.
Plane irons	3 cases ...	—	—
Potatoes	305 cases ...	178 cases ...	194 cases, 19 sacks.
Provisions	78 casks, 63 cases.	—	59 cases.
Poultry, alive... ..	5 crates ...	16 crates ...	80 crates.
Pollard	—	—	1 bag.
Prunes	2 cases ...	3 cases ...	13 cases.
Puddings	3 cases ...	9 cases ...	8 cases.
Pumps	—	3 ...	—
Plants... ..	—	—	4 cases.
Ratline	—	3 coils ...	4 coils.
Rice, bags	3511 bags ...	5436 bags ...	7603 bags.
Rice, tanks	2 tanks ...	6 tanks ...	9 tanks.
Rifles	—	—	1 case.
Rope, Manila ..	61 coils ...	51 coils ...	129 coils.
Rope, coir	—	19 coils ...	8 coils.
Ruberoid roofing ...	—	10 crates ...	10 crates.
Rum	1 octave ...	—	—
Rudder	1 ...	—	—
Sails	13 bales ...	16 bales ...	39 bales.
Saddlery	—	1 case ...	4 packages.
Safes	2 ...	—	1.
Sardines	22 cases ...	39 cases ...	37 cases.
Salt	16 cases, 5 bags	10 cases, 12 bags	10 cases, 15 bags.
Salt fish	—	2 cases ...	2 cases.
Salmon, tinned ...	63 cases ...	48 cases ...	116 cases.
Sauce	13 cases ...	8 cases ...	11 cases.
Saucepans	—	2 cases ...	—
Sashes, window ...	14 packages ...	6 packages ...	10 packages.
Sash weights	90 ...	—	—
Sarsaparilla	2 cases ...	2 cases ...	—
Scales	2 cases ...	—	1 case.
Screws	2 cases ...	—	—
Seeds	1 parcel ...	3 bags ...	1 bag.
Sewing machines ...	—	1 ...	2.
Sheep	70 ...	40 ...	5.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Sherbet ...	3 boxes ...	—	—
Ship chandlery ...	1 case ...	—	9 cases.
Shot ...	—	—	2 boxes.
Sausages ...	7 cases ...	9 cases ...	4 cases.
Saws ...	3 packages ...	8 packages ...	8 packages.
Scent ...	2 cases ...	—	—
Silver coin ...	£30 ...	£40 ...	£10 and 1 bag.
Soups ...	2 cases ...	4 cases ...	10 cases.
School furniture ...	2 packages ...	—	3 packages.
Soap ...	3 drums, 69 boxes.	115 boxes ...	115 boxes.
Soda ...	1 bag ...	1 cask ...	—
Spades... {	2 bundles } and 24 }	5 bundles ...	21 bundles.
Sparklets ...	—	3 cases ...	—
Spars ...	12 ...	—	1.
Spears ...	—	4 bundles ...	5 bundles.
Spun yarn ...	1 package ...	7 packages ...	2 packages.
Stationery ...	4 packages ...	6 packages ...	10 packages.
Starch ...	—	1 box ...	1 box.
Statues ...	2 ...	8 ...	6.
Stockholm tar ...	4 drums, 1 barrel.	2 drums ...	3 drums.
Stove pipe ...	—	9 bundles ...	14 bundles.
Stones, hewn ...	420 ...	—	—
Sulphur ...	—	1 cask ...	—
Suet ...	1 keg ...	—	—
Stoves ...	9 ...	12 ...	9.
Sugar, crates ...	60 crates ...	88 crates ...	160 crates.
Sugar, bags ...	145 bags ...	150 bags ...	172 bags.
Syrup ... {	18 cases ...	36 cases, 6 casks	25 cases, 6 casks.
Sundries ... {	1 keg ...	—	—
	265 cases ...	296 cases ...	291 cases.
Tanks ...	31 ...	17 ...	20.
Tea ...	42 cases ...	53 cases ...	32 cases.
Terebene ...	—	—	1 package.
Tinware ...	1 case ...	3 cases ...	2 cases.
Timber ...	66,005 feet ...	60,927 feet ...	148,200 feet.
Timber, box ...	50 bundles ...	245 bundles ...	82 bundles.
Tools ...	2 packages ...	1 box ...	—
Trunks ...	25 nests ...	76 sets ...	45 sets.
Tobacco, trade ...	33 tons 14 cwt.	42 tons 18 cwt.	52 tons 14 cwt.
Tobacco, manufac- } tured ... }	30 boxes ...	32 cases {	42 cases and 1 bale.
Tomato sauce ...	5 cases ...	7 cases ...	4 cases.
Tubs, galvanized {	3 bundles } and 12 }	14 sets ...	8 sets.
Turpentine ...	3 cases ...	2 cases ...	2 cases.
Twine ...	1 bale, 1 truss, 2 cases, 1 bundle.	5 trusses ...	5 trusses.
Tomb-stones ...	—	—	2.
Tomb-stone railing ...	—	—	1.

Imports from Port of Sydney—cont.

Denomination.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Typewriter ...	—	—	1.
Uniform cases ...	—	—	2.
Umbrellas ...	5 cases	—	1 case.
Varnish ...	3 drums	—	1 case.
Vegetables, tinned ...	3 cases	8 cases	46 cases.
Vegetables, green ...	1 bag	—	—
Vinegar ...	14 cases	26 cases	6 cases, 1 cask.
Vices ...	2	1	1.
Waste ...	—	1 bale	—
Weighing machines ...	—	1	2.
Whiskey ...	91 cases	101 cases, 2 casks	87 cases, 7 octaves.
Whales' teeth...	—	1 bag, 1 box	—
Winch...	—	—	1.
Whetstones ...	2 cases	—	—
Windlass ...	—	2	—
Wine, sparkling ...	10 cases	15 cases	10 cases.
Wine, still ...	54 cases, 6 casks	70 cases, 18 casks	79 cases, 18 casks.
Wire rope ...	22 coils	9 coils	22 coils.
Wire mattresses ...	—	—	8.
Wheelbarrows ...	2	2	1.
Whitening ...	—	1 keg	—
Zinc, white ...	—	51 kegs	125 kegs.

LABOUR TRADE.

During the year 1903 the Protectorate was visited by seven recruiting vessels from Queensland, which made ten voyages between them.

Most of these recruiting vessels also carried return passengers from Queensland to the Solomons.

From 1st January, 1904, to 31st March, 1905, one vessel recruiting for Fiji visited the Protectorate, and three Queensland vessels made five voyages for landing returning labourers. Under the provisions of the Act passed by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, quoted as "The Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901," recruiting of Pacific Island labourers from the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the New Hebrides ceased at the end of 1903. After the end of the year 1906 Pacific Island labourers may, under the provisions of the Act, be compulsorily deported from Australia.

The number of labourers recruited for Queensland from the Solomons was as follows:—

Year.					No.
1899	...	...	...	...	848
1900	...	...	...	...	884
1901	...	...	...	...	1,165
1902	...	...	...	...	875
1903	...	...	...	...	663

The total number of Pacific Island labourers in Queensland in March, 1904, was stated to be 8,557, of which number 7,219 were working under agreement and 1,338 were unemployed or working without agreement. Of the total it may be assumed that, at least, two-thirds were natives of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, or, to put it in round figures, it may be estimated that at the date mentioned there were nearly 6,000 natives of the Protectorate in Queensland.

Although recruiting ceased at the end of 1903, the work of returning has not since proceeded at its usual rate. Inducements have been held out to the labourers already in Queensland, in the shape of increased wages, to re-engage for a further period instead of returning home at the expiration of their contracts, and consequently only 622 have returned from Queensland to the Solomons since the beginning of 1904, thus leaving about 5,380 Solomon Islanders in Queensland at 31st March, 1905.

It is not to be supposed that the efforts made by employers to retain the labourers in Queensland will be relaxed during the remainder of 1905 or during 1906, and, consequently, it would appear that there will be from 4,500 to 5,000 Solomon Islanders to be deported from Queensland after 1st January, 1907.

The majority of these will be young men, many of whom would have returned home in any case at the expiration of their contracts.

Should they be unwilling to return to their own homes, they will have no difficulty in finding employment upon plantations in the Protectorate. Upon these no hardship will fall.

There will remain a certain number of older men, a number which is estimated at about 500. Most of these, but for the Act, would have made their homes permanently in Queensland.

Some of these will be industrious men of good character, who have acquired property. Cases have even been known where they have had white men in their employment, and it is

believed that there are five or six cases of Pacific Island natives in Queensland who are legally married to white women.

Upon such as these deportation, involving compulsory realisation and inevitable sacrifice of their properties, will entail great hardship.

There will be some men of another class, men who do no regular work, but who have been getting their living in various ways, mostly of a disreputable nature, and who have had their original criminal instincts sharpened during their residence in Queensland.

It may be taken for granted that these will be a source of continual strife and discord should the Protectorate Government permit them to return to their own homes, and, in any case, a fruitful cause of embarrassment and expense.

The case, from a missionary's point of the view, is most correctly stated by the Rev. A. T. Hopkins, of the Melanesian Mission, who is stationed at the north-west end of the Island of Mala, the island from whence most of the Solomon Islands labourers have been recruited. He says:—

“The chief factor for good or evil in the district is the steady stream of labourers returning from Queensland. It is almost a sure cause of disturbance, whether for good or ill. On the one hand, to these men is due the starting of new schools, and in doing this they have to face the resentment of their heathen neighbours and the jealousy of local chiefs at the formation of new villages outside their control. Or, if they go back to their own villages, the distribution of the contents of their boxes, often done by force, is a fruitful cause of quarrels. Then there are the worthless ones who are ‘wanted’ for old offences, or who return only more able for mischief than before. It is hard to say which way the balance lies, whether for good or for evil. One looks at the schools that they have started, and are faithfully maintaining, and thanks God for them; but, again, often the other side painfully obtrudes itself, and one is thankful that the labour traffic to Queensland is stopped. No doubt it will be easier to judge when they have all returned. The next two years will be anxious ones.”

It is uncertain, at present, how the deportation of Pacific Island labourers will affect the sugar industry in Queensland. Opposite opinions are held upon this as upon all other party questions, but the views expressed by the Chairman of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the corporation most largely interested in the Queensland sugar industry, in the report pre-

sented to the shareholders in October, 1904, may be quoted as expressing the opinion held by the employers. He says:—

“As far back as October, 1901, I pointed out to you that, in our opinion, the cessation of the employment of Kanakas in tropical Queensland—an eventuality for which we are fully prepared—would result in the collapse of the industry there, and we have had no reason since to change our views. The farmers, generally, have hitherto shown themselves apathetic in this connection, but there are indications that they are beginning to realise the seriousness of their position, and it is to be hoped that the Federal Government may, before it is too late, devise means whereby the sugar industry in North Queensland, which is of so much importance to that State, and in which its Government is largely interested, may be saved from ruin.”

The fact must not be lost sight of that about 20 years ago an Act was passed by the Queensland Government prohibiting the further recruiting of Pacific Island labourers for work upon the sugar plantations, but it was afterwards repealed when it was found impossible to carry on the industry without them.

It would, however, appear, that even should the Commonwealth Government repeal the Pacific Island Labourers Act, 1901, an event which seems most unlikely, some recruiting field other than the British Solomon Islands Protectorate will have to be drawn upon. In fact, recruiting in the Solomons for employment at any place outside the Protectorate may shortly cease altogether since all available local labourers will be required upon plantations in the Protectorate itself.

The local demand in the immediate future will be at least at the rate of 1,000 labourers, to be engaged each year on three years' engagements.

The labourers recruited for Queensland were in all cases entitled to a free passage home at the expiration of their original or subsequent engagements, and it has been the custom for indenturers to deposit a certain sum with the Queensland Immigration Agent, which has been placed to an account known as the Pacific Islanders' Fund, out of which the Queensland Government has paid the passage money of natives returning to their homes.

While recruiting still continued, the amount received by owners of vessels engaged in the labour trade for return passages was at the rate of five pounds (£5) per head for each return passenger. Now that recruiting has ceased, and, consequently, only return passengers are carried, owners of labour vessels refuse to convey them at this rate, and the passage money lately paid has been at the rate of seven pounds (£7) per head.

The Resident Commissioner, in September, 1903, for sufficient reasons, took the extreme course of temporarily suspending the labour trade, and the High Commissioner, in consequence of his action, visited the Protectorate in His Majestys' Ship "Pylades," and after making enquiries upon the spot and subsequent conference with the Queensland authorities, a new regulation was passed in November, 1903, making it compulsory for labour vessels to call first on their arrival in the Protectorate at the Government Station at Tulagi, and afterwards to carry out the landing of return labourers in accordance with the instructions of the Resident Commissioner or those of the Government Agent appointed by him.

No suitable agent could be appointed until the beginning of the present year, but an officer has now been appointed who will in future board all labour ships on their arrival at Tulagi and continue on board while the business of landing the native passengers is carried on.

AGRICULTURE.

The planting of coco-nuts, at present almost the only branch of agriculture engaged in by white men in the Protectorate, has been still further extended since the date of the previous report, but the industry is still in its infancy.

A largely increased acreage will be planted during the present year.

Of the plantations already formed, the earliest planted are beginning to bear and, consequently, to influence the total of the amount of copra exported, which previously had been drawn exclusively from native sources.

The acreage under coco-nuts, other than native coco-nuts, at 31st March, 1905, as compared with the four previous years, will appear from the following table:—

At 31st March, 1901...	...	...	988 acres.
" " 1902...	...	...	1,423 "
" " 1903...	...	...	1,958 "
" " 1904...	...	...	2,598 "
" " 1905...	...	...	3,423 "

In planting coco-nuts in the Solomons it has been the custom to plant the trees from 30 to 33 feet apart. Trees planted at any less distance apart are too close together, whatever may be the practice in places where the trees do not attain the luxuriant growth they reach in the Solomons.

Consequently, estimating the number of trees at about 45 to the acre all round, this will give the respectable total of about 154,000 trees already planted by white men. It is estimated that by 31st March, 1906, the area under coco-nuts will have reached a total of between 5,000 and 6,000 acres.

There is no doubt that there is no other group of islands in the Western Pacific that can attempt to compare with the Solomons in suitability for the growth of the coco-nut palm, firstly, on account of the greater fertility of the soil, and, again, from the fact that hurricanes and droughts are unknown.

Cotton had not hitherto been grown in the Protectorate, but a trial is now being made. A hybrid between a variety obtained from the head waters of the Amazons and the well-known Sea Island cotton of the Southern States of America has been selected for the experiment.

The seed was obtained from Dr. Thomatis, of Cairns, Queensland, by whom the variety in question was raised.

It is claimed for this variety, which is known as "Caravonica," that it yields three times as much clean lint as the old sorts.

The experiment will be watched with interest, and deserves every encouragement.

Cotton-growing in the Pacific is no new thing, as seems to be supposed. During the sixties, and as late as about the year 1880, cotton was largely exported from Fiji, the very remunerative prices received for the raw product being due to the scarcity of cotton in Lancashire owing to the American Civil War.

It is not to be supposed that such high prices will rule again, but if cotton can be produced at a remunerative price in Australasia, as is stated, the Protectorate is prepared to compete under conditions at least as favourable as those presented in any other part of the Western Pacific, and certainly more favourable than those obtaining on the continent of Australia.

A recent attempt to procure plants of rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) from Singapore was unsuccessful, but has only postponed for a few months the commencement of rubber growing.

Many thousand acres of forest lands in the Protectorate are eminently suitable for this purpose, and the climate would appear to be very favourable. Rice has been successfully grown experimentally, and will no doubt be grown in future for local use.

The amount of rice imported, which in 1903 was 85 tons, and in 1904 was 135 tons, reached last year a total of 180 tons.

Rice, owing to the growing scarcity and increasing cost of native food, is being more generally used to feed native employés on plantations and trading vessels. The natives are very fond of it, and it is fast becoming an important article of barter between the traders and the natives.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following table shows the amount of rainfall in inches registered at the Government Station at Tulagi since September, 1897:—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	Averages for 7 years 1898-1904.
Jan. ..	—	9'51	14'27	12'20	10'93	18'31	3'93	14'78	5'62	11'994
Feb. ..	—	28'55	12'04	3'09	12'46	27'76	14'12	17'61	21'20	16'520
Mar. ..	—	27'89	17'47	13'48	10'83	22'39	10'73	23'49	—	18'040
Apr. ..	—	6'67	20'48	2'29	6'75	8'53	5'68	6'75	—	8'164
May ..	—	4'19	8'85	5'83	17'59	4'53	3'84	10'77	—	7'947
June ..	—	4'86	1'26	3'20	10'69	7'85	7'99	2'12	—	5'424
July ..	—	4'88	24'27	3'24	5'53	9'02	7'79	4'32	—	8'433
Aug. ..	—	9'94	8'33	3'01	13'24	14'70	14'28	8'91	—	10'344
Sept. ..	—	10'53	10'92	5'41	10'35	6'25	10'03	5'53	—	8'438
Oct. ..	2'91	10'23	11'21	9'12	15'60	6'65	10'39	7'01	—	10'030
Nov. ..	5'66	21'14	7'89	10'82	7'97	6'83	10'69	3'35	—	9'784
Dec. ..	11'03	8'97	19'03	10'55	11'91	9'86	16'76	6'00	—	11'908
Total	19'60	147'39	156'02	82'32	133'85	142'70	116'26	110'64	26'82	127'026

The register of rainfall at Tulagi has now been kept for a sufficiently long time to permit of an average for a period of seven years (from 1898 to 1904) being presented.

It will be gathered from the table that the months from December to March, the season of the north-west monsoon, are the wettest, and that the months of April to September, the season of the south-east trade wind, are those during which less rain falls. No period of the year can, however, rightly be called a dry season. June appears to be the month when least rain is to be expected.

The septennial average for July is affected by the abnormal rainfall for that month recorded during the year 1899, when about 17 inches of rain fell in two days. This appears to have been an altogether exceptional phenomenon.

The comparatively small total for the year 1900 is remarkable when compared with the annual totals for the remainder of the septennial period.

The south-east trade wind season may be said to set in during March or April and to continue until November.

During the months from November to March long periods of calm weather are experienced, varied by westerly and north-westerly winds, which sometimes blow with considerable force, but cyclonic storms, such as prevail during this season in more southerly latitudes, are unknown in the Solomons.

In the absence of proper instruments it has been impossible to keep any record of temperature or barometrical observations, but it is hoped that it may be possible to furnish these in future. A thermometer on the verandah at the Government Residence at Tulagi, about 220 feet above sea level, has never recorded a lower night temperature than 73° F., and during the cooler months, June to September, rises to about 86° to 88° during the day.

During the hot months, December to February, a temperature of 92° has occasionally been observed on calm days when the heat has not been tempered by a breeze off the sea.

It would be most interesting and valuable if observations of the tides could be taken by means of a self-registering tide gauge. The rise and fall of these at Tulagi and at most places in the Solomons is very irregular and perplexing. Generally speaking, there is only one tide in the twenty-four hours.

VISITS OF WARSHIPS, &c.

His Majesty's Ship "Torch," Commander Millar, arrived at Tulagi from Australia on 26th August, 1903, and cruised among the Western Solomons until 9th September, on which date she returned to the Government Station.

The "Torch" was chiefly occupied during her cruise in correcting and verifying surveys.

His Majesty Ship "Pylades," Commander da Costa, arrived at Tulagi on 19th October, 1903, with His Excellency Sir Henry Jackson, High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, on board. After the High Commissioner had made certain enquiries in connection with the Queensland labour trade, he left again in the "Pylades" for Queensland on 21st October.

The "Pylades" again arrived from Sydney on 26th May, 1904, and cruised in the group, visiting trading and mission stations until June 11th, when she left for British New Guinea.

In addition to the above, the German Colonial Government steam yacht "Seestern" arrived from Herbertshohe, New Britain, on 13th October, 1903, with His Excellency Dr. Hahl, Governor of the German New Guinea Colony, upon a visit to the Resident Commissioner, and left again on the following

day. It is not to be expected that British warships will in future pay such extended visits as have been customary before the establishment of a Government in the Protectorate.

Formerly, there was always an annual list of murders of white men or offences in connection with the labour trade, the duty of investigating and dealing with which devolved upon the commanding officer of His Majesty's ships.

Murders of white men may now be said to have ceased, and if they should occur they can be dealt with by the local authority.

Additional powers have been given to the Resident Commissioner in connection with the control of the labour trade, and the few items of statistical and other information which commanders of warships were instructed annually to supply are now supplied more fully in the published Colonial Office Reports. The more modern class of warship, which will in future be employed upon the Australian station, will be less suitable for protracted cruises among the islands than obsolete vessels of small coal consumption of the "Pylades" and "Rapid" class, nor is it to be expected that it will be possible to spare them for months at a time away from all possibility of telegraphic recall in case of necessity.

A small steamer for the use of the Resident Commissioner, the want of which has been long felt, will consequently become more than ever a necessity.

Not only did His Majesty's ships for years, before the advent of other Powers, police the Western Pacific, but almost the only hydrographical work done has been the work of the British Hydrographical Department.

Most valuable hydrographical work has been already done in the Solomons by His Majesty's Ships "Renard," "Lark," "Sandfly," "Penguin," "Dart," and others, but much still remains to be done.

The chart of the waters between the islands of Guadalcanar and Florida, the most frequented waters of the whole group, contains many unnecessary cautions, and especially needs surveying. A coastal survey of the Island of Mala is also greatly needed, but for surveying service vessels of a special class are employed.

It is hoped that one of the surveying vessels attached to the Australian Station may be available to complete the unfinished work at no distant date.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

During the period under review missionary enterprise has been more than ever active in the Protectorate.

There are at present four societies represented, viz., the Melanesian Mission (Church of England), the Marist Mission (Roman Catholic), the Australasian Methodist Mission (Protestant Nonconformist), and the Queensland Kanaka Mission (Protestant Independent).

The field covered by the Melanesian Mission in the Protectorate includes the Santa Cruz Group and islands adjacent, San Cristoval, Guadalcanar, Mala, Ulawa, Florida, Savo, Russell Island, and Ysabel. About six white missionaries are generally, but not always, resident in the Protectorate.

The Marist Mission has headquarter stations at Rua Sura, off the coast of Guadalcanar, and at Poporang in the Bougainville Straits.

The field of work at present extends to the islands of Guadalcanar and Savo, and to the islands in Bougainville Straits, and also to the large island of Bougainville, the last being a German possession. The staff of the mission on the spot consists at present of about ten Fathers and six Sisters.

The Australasian Methodist Mission has its two head stations in the Rubiana Lagoon, under the charge of two white missionaries aided by their wives. Their field of work comprises all the islands of the New Georgia Group, including Narovo, Ronongo, Vellalavella, and Choiseul; and a teacher has been landed at that singular group of islands known as Ongtong Java, or Lord Howe's Group.

Thus the spheres of work of the two most important Protestant Missions in the Protectorate may be said to be definitely marked out.

The Queensland Kanaka Mission has only recently commenced work in the Protectorate, but a site for a station has been secured upon the island of Mala. It is understood that the Mission intends to confine its work to that island.

It is gratifying to be able to testify to the mutual good feeling existing between missionaries of all denominations and the resident traders, nor would this brief account of the

progress of mission work in the Protectorate be complete without a reference to the devoted and self-sacrificing assistance given by the Rev. Henry Welchman, M.R.C.S., of the Melanesian Mission, to all in need of medical or surgical attention and advice.

PRISONS AND POLICE.

There is a prison both at Tulagi and at Gizo. The buildings in each case are of wood upon a pile foundation, and it will be necessary at no distant date to provide gaols, or, at least, strong cells of concrete.

Prisoners from islands near Tulagi and the south-east end of the Protectorate are sent to serve their sentences at Gizo, 250 miles distant, in order to avoid the risk of escape, as, except in the cases of violent and dangerous offenders, they are not locked up even at night, and during the day work upon the Government stations and plantations.

In one case a prisoner confined in the gaol at Tulagi on a charge of murder escaped during the night by removing a bar of the gaol window, it is believed with the aid of assistance from outside. He escaped to the mainland, but was brought back by the local natives the following day.

He escaped a second time a few days later, and, having securing a small canoe, managed to go a distance of about ten miles in the direction of his home, when he was again arrested by the natives of Gela and brought back. After this he was sent to Gizo where he remains. A prisoner from Ysabel escaped from Tulagi by swimming to the mainland before he had been an hour on the island. The natives came and gave information of his arrival at the village in the Sandfly Passage and were promised a reward for his return. He was not brought back and it became evident that the natives were harbouring him. They were then warned, on pain of a fine, that the man must be immediately given up and he was produced the following day. Two prisoners escaped from the gaol at Gizo by removing the flooring and crawling through. In this case also it was supposed that assistance had been given from outside. They have not been re-captured.

The number of native prisoners under detention at the Government stations during the two years ended on 31st March, 1905, has been 42, of which number 19 have been discharged, 21 remained in custody, one died, and one was executed.

The offences for which they were detained were as follows:—

Offence.	No.	Discharged.	Remaining in custody 31st March, 1905.
Adultery... ..	12	8	4
Assault	7	7	—
Smuggling arms	2	2	—
Wilful damage to gardens	2	2	—
Theft	11 ^c	—	10
Witchcraft	1	—	1
Inciting to breach of peace	2	—	2
Murder	5†	—	4
Total	42	19	21

* 1 dead.

† 1 executed.

One white prisoner was sentenced at Tulagi for shooting a native and in addition to a term of imprisonment had to pay compensation to the injured man. He was still in custody at 31st March, 1905.

In two cases it was found necessary to impose heavy fines upon native communities for inflicting torture upon women upon charges of witchcraft. The fines were in each case paid, and the natives of those particular localities have, it is believed, fully recognised that such proceedings will not be tolerated in future.

It is feared that such cases have been too common and that many occur which are not reported.

The spread of missionary work will do much to put an end to the old native superstitions, the belief in which makes such things possible.

The Native police consist of a body of about 30 picked natives armed with Martini-Henry rifles; most of them are stationed at Gizo.

Head-hunting, which used to flourish among the natives of the New Georgia Group and adjacent islands at the expense of the unfortunate natives of Ysabel and the west end of Guadalcanar, has by their aid been almost suppressed, but still lingers to some extent upon the island of Choiseul.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
432	Barbados	1903-1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903-1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902-1903 & 1903-1904
441	British Guiana	1903-1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903-1904
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"
456	Seychelles	"
457	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
458	Straits Settlements	"
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone... ..	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 774.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT TO 30TH JUNE, 1913.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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No. 774.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Office of the Resident Commissioner,
Tulagi,
12th August, 1913.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward a
Report upon the British Solomon Islands Protectorate up to
30th June last.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD,
Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency

Sir Bickham Escott, K.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.,

High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

PROTECTORATE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

POPULATION.

WHITE AND OTHER FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

The white and other foreign population of the Protectorate has considerably increased during the year and has more than doubled during the four years elapsed since 1909. It now considerably exceeds 500, of which number 437 are males and about 103 females.

Their nationalities are as follows:—

British	...	...	...	...	396
French	...	...	...	...	33
German	...	...	...	...	7
Other Europeans	...	...	...	...	2
Chinese	...	...	...	...	27
Japanese	...	...	...	...	6
Half-castes—living as Europeans	...	...	...	...	23
Natives of other Pacific Islands	...	...	...	...	45
West Indian negro	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	540

Note.—The 33 French residents are all members of the Marist Catholic Mission.

Their employments and occupations were as follows:—

In Government employment, including wives and children	...	...	...	...	23
Marist Mission (French Catholic) (24 males, 14 females)	...	...	...	...	38
Melanesian Mission (Church of England) (15 males, 7 females)	...	...	...	...	22
Wesleyan Methodist Mission (8 males, 8 females)	...	...	...	...	16
South Sea Evangelical Mission (7 males, 11 females)	...	...	...	...	18
Engaged in trading, fishing, planting, or working for wages in connection with the above occupations, including families and children	...	...	...	...	423
Total	...	...	...	...	540

Births and Marriages.

Since 1st January, 1912, one birth and four marriages have been registered, but as a rule the births of children to white residents occur away from the Protectorate and the same remark applies to some extent to marriages.

Deaths.

Since the same date, 13 deaths have occurred among the white and foreign population, viz., of 10 males and 3 females.

Of these, the deaths of 6 males and 1 female were certified to have been due to blackwater or malarial fever. The death of a female was due to chronic Bright's disease. The deaths of 2 males were attributable to drowning; 1 female, cause of death uncertified; 1 male, due to accident with diving dress; 1 male, murdered by natives.

NATIVE POPULATION.

The number of the native population may still be estimated at 150,000, but it is undoubtedly decreasing in many localities.

The natives are at present passing through a critical period. Head-hunting has been put down, and except on one or two islands, such as Malaita, where raids and sniping between bushmen and saltwater natives still continue and where the population shows no apparent signs of decrease, there is a risk of a drift into a careless acceptance of the more easy conditions of life without effort to make provision for more than the immediately necessary requirements.

The facility of procuring not only the necessities but even unnecessary luxuries by the sale of a few strings of copra or baskets of ivory nuts to a trader operates in the same direction. The old ineradicable socialistic idea under which a native is unable to retain for his own use any property he may acquire is a direct deterrent to any effort towards individual industry.

Reports from the Roviana Lagoon tend to show that the population is increasing there. Such is not the case in the Shortland Island Group, where it may be said that the end is already in sight.

In this case special causes have operated which do not exist elsewhere. A system of polygamy prevailed amongst the men of higher rank. Up to about 15 years ago the chiefs of Shortland Island imported male and female slaves from Bougainville. Since the division of the Shortland Group from Bougainville under the Anglo-German Agreement of 1899 this source of supply has been cut off.

Fœticide, infanticide, and indiscriminate intercourse now prevail among the natives of Shortland Island to a terrible extent, in spite of energetic steps which are being taken to prevent them.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1903-04	...	...	...	...	1,632	2,253
1904-05	...	...	...	...	1,993	2,307
1905-06	...	...	...	...	2,378	2,341
1906-07	...	...	...	...	4,618	3,295
1907-08	...	...	...	...	7,430	6,483
1908-09	...	...	...	...	10,603	13,257
1909-10	...	...	...	...	11,356	8,456
1910-11	...	...	...	...	14,130	9,493
1911-12	...	...	...	...	10,040	22,639
1912-13	...	...	...	...	15,432	15,571

*Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1913.**Assets.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in bank ...	2,791	1	5			
Balance in cash ...	239	5	11			
				3,030	7	4
Advance Account ...	15	1	1			
Remittances between chests ...	66	10	0	81	11	1
Total ...				£3,111	18	5

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposit Account ...	1,779	5	9			
High Commissioner's Account	373	10	5			
Crown Agents ...	331	4	1			
General Post Office, London ...	92	12	11½			
Suspense Account ...	106	11	11			
Sydney agents ...	307	1	11			
				2,990	7	0½
Balance, being excess of Assets ...				121	11	4½
Total ...				£3,111	18	5

Statement of Revenue for three years ending 31st March in each year.

Head of Revenue.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs ...	10,220 12 1	11,589 0 3	10,414 17 4
Licences and internal revenue, not otherwise classified.	1,360 11 6	1,782 8 3	1,690 18 6
Fees of Court and office, payments for specific services, and reimbursements in aid.	120 9 11	70 7 9	327 19 2
Post office ...	899 2 2	573 10 10	1,107 2 2½
Rent of Government property ...	543 13 4	727 12 0	884 13 4
Interest on deposits ...	30 0 0	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	955 19 0	1,296 10 9	989 9 7
Land sales and premia on leases...	—	1 4 0	17 10 2
Total ...	14,130 8 0	16,040 13 10	15,432 10 3½

Statement of Expenditure for three years ending 31st March in each year.

Head of Expenditure.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
High Commissioner's Department	—	254 10 3	226 3 6
Resident Commissioner's Department.	1,688 2 9	2,239 7 6	2,282 15 9
Postal Department ...	63 5 3	26 2 2	108 2 8
Treasury and customs ...	539 17 6	672 15 4	665 3 0

Head of Expenditure.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Audit	—	37 1 8	42 5 4
Port and marine	4 0 0	26 4 1	93 6 8
Native labour	265 17 10	361 5 4	364 8 8
District administration	1,072 3 4	1,159 17 5	1,633 12 8
Police	1,327 15 9	2,639 15 0	1,675 17 10
Prisons	69 5 10	35 0 5	40 8 5
Medical	210 11 7	450 17 8	569 5 2
Government steamer (transport)	2,936 3 4	3,596 18 0	4,339 16 4
Transport extraordinary	—	9,026 13 8	461 5 3
Survey	—	367 8 11	262 6 1
Miscellaneous	21 7 10	73 14 8	27 1 3
Public works, annually recurrent	28 13 3	7 7 9	301 19 2
Public works, extraordinary	1,230 17 4	1,398 9 8	2,100 8 10
Wireless telegraphy	—	—	—
Purchase of land	35 0 0	266 0 0	1,306 10 0
Total	9,493 1 7	22,639 9 6	16,500 16 7

Return showing the Customs Duties collected on the respective items of imports for the year ending 31st March, 1913.

	£ s. d.
Beer	320 4 0
Benzine	634 15 4
Kerosine	346 18 4
Dynamite	72 0 4
Tobacco	7,867 10 0
Spirits	984 4 10
Wine	180 4 6

Total £10,414 17 4

Statement of Navigation showing the number of British and Foreign Vessels entered and cleared.

Inwards.

Nationality.	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British	36	26,509	66	25,588	55	27,500
Foreign	8	236	17	236	13	239
Total	44	26,745	83	25,824	68	27,739

Outwards.

British	30	26,076	58	24,094	46	24,167
Foreign	8	236	16	231	11	212
Total	38	26,312	74	24,325	57	24,379

TRADE.

The distance of the Port of Tulagi from Sydney is about 1,750 miles, and at present communication is carried on by Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's steamers and by the steamers belonging to Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited.

Messrs. Burns Philp's direct Solomon Island service affords a steamer leaving Sydney for the Solomons, calling en route at Brisbane, every six weeks. The transit from Sydney to Tulagi at present occupies about eight days. This might be reduced by nearly two days if the totally unnecessary call at Brisbane were omitted.

The steamer employed by Messrs. Burns Philp in their Gilbert and Marshall Island trade makes about six trips a year and calls at Tulagi both going and coming. She carries no Solomon Island cargo, but the additional convenience for sending and receiving mails is much appreciated.

Messrs. Lever's steamer leaves Sydney direct for the Solomons about every eleven weeks.

Thus, under the present arrangements, there is direct communication from and to Sydney about twenty times during the year.

It is proposed that, beginning with next year, Messrs. Lever's steamer, which now includes the Ellice Group in her itinerary as well as the Solomons, will confine her voyage to the Solomons only, and will thus provide a more frequent service.

A proposal has recently been made by a combination of planters to secure an extra steamer to carry bananas from the Protectorate direct to Sydney. It is unlikely to be carried out. The bananas are not yet planted, and if the work of planting were started at once it would be a year or two at least before any adequate shipments could be made.

It seems more probable that Messrs. Burns Philp and Messrs. Lever, who are fully prepared to provide for the conveyance of all produce likely to be shipped from the Protectorate for some years to come, would be in a better position to undertake such work than an outside steamer, as ample guarantees of both inward and outward cargo would have to be furnished before any other firm of shipowners would embark in such an enterprise.

The export of copra, which must for all time be looked upon as the chief article of export from the Protectorate, is steadily increasing, and if the output at any time exceeds the carrying capacity of the present steamers, it is only reasonable to suppose that additional steamers would be put into the service to carry it.

It would be impossible for a steamer of sufficient tonnage to carry bananas to Sydney to call at half a dozen widely separated plantations in the Protectorate to ship them, and it appears obvious that, as in Fiji, the bananas would have to be brought to one or two final ports of departure.

Messrs. Lever have already two small steamers trading within the Protectorate itself and would be in a position to undertake this service, and Messrs. Burns Philp are prepared at once to provide small steamers for the same purpose, if the probable shipments of perishable cargo, such as bananas, warranted it; but there must be something to show first that the bananas are

likely to be ready for shipment at fixed dates. At present this assurance is lacking.

Bananas are at present being shipped from only one plantation and the business is only in its infancy. Copra will always head the list of exports and the quantity is steadily increasing. Nearly 25,000 acres of land in the Protectorate have already been planted with coco-nuts by white planters, only a small proportion of which are at present yielding a return, and the expected increase in the export of copra will be due to the produce of these plantations, as the native grown copra shows no sign of increase and is not likely to do so.

Next to copra, the most important article of export is the nut of a species of sago palm, known locally as ivory nuts. These ivory nuts have been exported for the last thirty or forty years in greater or lesser quantities, but recently the price has considerably appreciated, and increased attention has been paid to their collection. The species of palm of which these nuts are the fruit is believed to be confined to the Solomons and grows naturally without cultivation in swampy land unsuited to other products. It bears fruit but once, at the age of from ten to fifteen years, after which the tree dies.

Samples of these nuts were recently submitted to Professor Wyndham Dunstan at the Imperial Institute and a copy of his Report is subjoined.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Report on Ivory Nuts from the Solomon Islands,

by Professor Wyndham R. Dunstan, M.A., F.R.S., Director.

"The ivory nuts which are the subject of this report were forwarded to the Imperial Institute by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Ltd., at the request of the Resident Commissioner at Tulagi. The nuts are derived from *Coelococcus salomonensis*, Warb. (*Sagus* or *Metroxylon amicarum*) a palm which is believed to be peculiar to the Solomon Islands.

Description of Sample.

"The nuts were clean, and in fair condition. They varied in weight from $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 4 oz., the average being 3 oz., and in size from $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 inches to 2 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

"The endosperm was hard and cream-coloured; its thickness varied from 0.3 to 0.9 inch, being in most cases about 0.7 inch.

"The endosperm of the nuts appeared to be capable of giving a fair surface when ground smooth, but it did not take so high a polish as the ordinary 'vegetable ivory' of commerce.

Commercial Valuation.

"The nuts were submitted to experts, who reported on their value as follows:—

"(1.) A large English firm of button makers stated that these nuts are similar to those known in the trade as apple nuts. The firm had only rarely used the nuts, which they considered would be more readily saleable in Hamburg than in London. They

described the sample submitted to them as of poor quality, but they considered that the price of nuts of good quality would vary from £15 to £25 per ton in Europe.

“(2.) A Continental manufacturer stated that large quantities of nuts of this kind have recently been imported into Hamburg, but that this is solely owing to the scarcity of large nuts in the shipments of ivory nuts received from South America, as the quality of these South Sea nuts is greatly disliked, their coarse structure making them difficult to turn and polish. He added that the yellowish tint of the sample submitted to him was a further drawback, as it renders the nuts unsuitable for grey dyes.

“The manufacturer stated that when purchasing this kind of nut he had found it necessary to buy only large and carefully selected nuts, even at a relatively high price, since the consignments as received contained so large a percentage of decayed nuts that it was impossible to judge of their value.

“The price of these nuts in Hamburg varies from mks. 20 to 27 per 50 kilos. (*i.e.*, about £20 to £27 per ton) according to their quality and size and the proportion of decayed nuts present in the consignments.

Remarks.

“From the foregoing remarks it appears that, so long as the present scarcity of South American ivory nuts obtains, the market in Europe for ivory nuts from the Solomon Islands should be maintained, if not increased, and that fair prices should be realised, provided that the nuts shipped are of large size and in sound condition.”

“28th December, 1912.”

From the above report, it is evident that great care is necessary in properly drying and sorting the nuts before shipment. It has been determined that freshly collected nuts contain as much as 60 per cent. of moisture, and unless they are thoroughly dried before shipment they are liable to rot.

It is feared that instead of allowing the nuts to ripen thoroughly on the trees and to fall naturally to the ground, natives and traders have in some cases, in order to secure a quick return, resorted to the practice of cutting down the trees and collecting the nuts before they were thoroughly ripe. Such action can only have the result of bringing the produce into disrepute and perhaps permanently injuring the trade.

The quantity of these nuts shipped annually for the last two years has been about 1,900 tons, of a value at the port of shipment or from £10 to £11 per ton.

Rubber will appear for the first time in the list of exports for 1913-14. It has been obtained by tapping from four-year-old trees. For reasons stated elsewhere the formation of rubber plantations is unlikely to be extended in the absence of a more plentiful labour supply.

The cultivation of cotton has been practically abandoned for the same reason, and it is unlikely to figure in the list of exports in future.

Samples of cotton grown in the Protectorate were submitted to Professor Wyndham Dunstan at the Imperial Institute, and he reported in January this year as follows:—

“Sample of Caravonica cotton. Valued at 9*d.* per lb., with “good” moderately rough Peruvian at 8·85 per lb. (January, 1913.) The cotton was pronounced to be of good useful character, but somewhat depreciated in value by the presence of stains and the irregularity in strength due to the partial immaturity of the sample.

Sample of Mamara cotton. (A variety claimed to have been produced locally.) Valued at 12*d.* per lb., with “choice” Sea Island cotton at 13*d.* per lb. (January, 1913.) The cotton was somewhat similar to the Sea Island variety in general character, but it was of darker colour and rather coarser, the average diameter of the Sea Island cotton being usually about 0·00063 inch.”

An enterprising planter has been for some years experimenting with sisal and musa fibres. He has come to the conclusion that the climate is too damp and forcing for sisal, but *Musa textilis*, introduced from the Philippines, and an indigenous species of *Musa* grow well and give good fibres. Samples have been submitted to the Imperial Institute and favourably reported upon. In this case again, it is a question of labour supply, but in spite of the active demand in Australia for fibres for rope-making, musa fibre grown in the Protectorate is unlikely to be able to compete with the Philippine product.

Timber.—The Protectorate contains some very valuable timber but so far very little has been done to establish an export trade, although spasmodic attempts have been from time to time made to introduce Solomon Island timbers on the Sydney market.

In this there has always been considerable difficulty, as, in spite of the increasing scarcity of timber in Australia, there seems to be a prejudice amongst those connected with the business against Island timber.

A market has at last been found for “dilo” timber, scientifically known as *Callophyllum inophyllum*. It is believed to be used in furniture making. Of this timber there is a practically inexhaustible supply.

The timber of the tree *Afzelia bijuga* appears to be absolutely impervious to the attacks of white ants, and almost so to the *Teredo navalis*. This tree grows everywhere in the Solomons, and reaches a diameter of two feet. One well authenticated case is known of a house post of this timber having been in use so long ago as 1863, and the post is still sound. Such a timber would be apparently invaluable for railway sleepers or for wharf piles.

Another valuable timber, closely allied to the “kauri” of New Zealand, is known to exist in certain places, and proposals to turn it to account are under consideration.

There is a good demand for this class of timber locally, and it could certainly be put on sale at a lower price than at the exorbitant rates demanded for New Zealand kauri by the Sydney merchants.

A small saw mill was at one time working on Guadalcanal and the Government gave an order for rough timber which turned out to be of a most satisfactory quality for the purpose for which it was intended, but when a further supply was ordered the order could not be executed. Another saw mill has recently been started, and the owners should be able to dispose locally of all they can cut.

The value of timber imported from Sydney amounted in 1911-12 to £4,343, and in 1912-13 to £5,316. The value of timber exported to Sydney during the same years amounted to £1,658 and £1,751 respectively.

The following limited liability companies are at present engaged in planting or trading business in the Protectorate. They are mostly registered in Sydney or Brisbane, as there is no provision for the registration of companies in the Protectorate.

Bugotu Plantations, Limited.
 Choiseul Plantations, Limited.
 Doma Plantations, Limited.
 Fairley Rigby and Co., Limited.
 Fatura Island Development Co., Limited.
 Gibson Islands, Limited.
 Gizo Solomons Proprietary, Limited.
 Haivo Plantation, Limited.
 Hamilton Plantations, Limited.
 Kindar, Limited.
 Lavoro Plantations, Limited.
 Levers' Pacific Plantations, Limited.
 Mamara Plantations, Limited.
 Malayta Company, Limited.
 Moli Plantation, Limited.
 Mundi Mundi Co., Limited.
 Phil Dickenson and Co., Limited.
 Gatere Plantation, Limited.
 Shortland Island Plantations, Limited.
 Solomon Islands Development Co., Limited.
 Solomon Islands Rubber Plantations, Limited.
 Union Plantation and Trading Co., Limited.
 Vellalavella Plantation and Trading Co., Limited.

Statement showing the quantity of copra exported from the Protectorate in each of the last ten years, in tons:—

Year.					Copra. Tons.
1903-04	...	...	...	...	2,817
1904-05	...	...	...	...	3,259
1905-06	...	...	...	...	3,564
1906-07	...	...	...	...	3,381
1907-08	...	...	...	...	2,933
1908-09	...	...	...	...	3,262
1909-10	...	...	...	...	3,486
1910-11	...	...	...	...	4,030
1911-12	...	...	...	...	3,587
1912-13	...	...	...	...	4,196

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Total value of the Import and Export Trade of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

Year ending 31st March.	1908-9.	1909-10.	1910-11.	1911-12.	1912-13.
Imports	£ 57,337	£ 59,300	£ 103,147	£ 130,019	£ 131,761
Exports	50,147	57,441	88,890	89,234	109,921
Total	107,484	116,741	192,037	219,253	241,682

Comparative Statement of Exports from Protectorate for the years ending 31st March 1911, 1912 and 1913.

Item.	1910-11.		1911-12.		1912-13.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copra... ..	4,030 tons	£ 68,999	3,587 tons	£ 55,953	4,196 tons	£ 73,637
Coco-nuts	450 bags	185	2,503 bags	614	3,837 bags	1,083
Ivory nuts	1,268 tons	13,137	1,912 tons	20,553	1,916 tons	20,119
Tortoise shell	974 lbs.	725	1,622 lbs.	1,416	1,095 lbs.	1,006
Mother-of-pearl shell	35 cwt.	207	—	1,574	25 tons	5,018
Pearl shell, black edge					4 tons	63
Trochus shell	144 tons	2,522	166 tons	2,577	161 tons	2,283
Green snail shell					27½ tons	373
Cotton	83 cwt.	632	7½ tons	842	4 tons 7 cwt.	491
Cotton seed	18 tons	105	—	5	—	—
Timber	38 logs	41	519 logs	1,658	841 logs	1,751
Curiosities	—	47	—	170	—	61
Maize... ..	1,058 bags	450	—	129	72 bags	21
Sweet potatoes	5½ tons	27	—	—	1 ton	4
Bananas	3,597 bchs. } 285 cases }	583	5,676 bchs. } 238 cases }	1,310	11,570 bchs. } 67 cases }	925
Fibre	4 bags	3	—	—	2 packages	1
Hardware, drapery, and personal effects.	—	300	—	947	—	701
Sharks' fins	—	—	—	—	—	2
General merchandise im- ported and exported to German Solomons.	—	928	—	1,486	—	2,382
Total	—	88,891	—	89,234	—	109,921

LAND.

	Acres.
Total area of land in the Protectorate, estimated ...	9,500,000
Land claimed to have been bought by Europeans, previous to declaration of the British Pro- tectorate, and the issue of Regulation No. 4 of 1896	area unknown.
Land purchased under the provisions of Regulation No. 4 of 1896	170,000
Waste or vacant land held on Occupation Licence ...	240,000
Lands purchased by Government and leased to Europeans	18,110
Lands leased by natives to Europeans	980

Previous to the declaration of the British Protectorate, certain purchases of land had occurred, some of which have since been made good by effective occupation and cultivation. One large claim comprising about 200,000 acres was extinguished by a money payment of £2,000. Others, mostly of very ancient date, and in most cases of very doubtful authenticity, still remain unadjudicated upon, and it is very desirable that the question of their confirmation or rejection should be considered as soon as possible.

Under the provisions of King's Regulation No. 4 of 1896, land could be bought direct from the natives in fee simple. Every transaction was provisional only until it had received the approval of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. In some instances the case was referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies before confirmation.

From 1st January, 1912, the High Commissioner has withheld his sanction to any private purchase of land, but leases are granted by the Government.

The Government either purchases the land to be leased from the natives or leases on their behalf. In the latter case a commission of ten per cent. on the rent is retained by the Government.

Land for agricultural purposes is leased upon a ninety-nine years lease, the minimum rent being at present fixed at 3*d.* per acre for the first five years, 6*d.* per acre for the second five years, 3*s.* per acre from the eleventh to the twentieth year, 6*s.* per acre from the twenty-first to the thirty-third year, and thereafter a rental assessed at five per cent. of the unimproved value of the land.

One-tenth part of the area must be cultivated within five years.

Similar improvement conditions apply to land purchased under the provisions of Regulation No. 4 of 1896, and considerable areas of land have recently been forfeited owing to non-compliance with the improvement conditions.

LABOUR.

The most vital question which the Protectorate has to face, unless its progress is to come altogether to a standstill, is that of the provision of an adequate labour supply.

At present the only labourers available for employment upon plantations are the natives of the Protectorate itself.

Enquiries addressed through the Colonial Office by Messrs. Lever upon a proposal to introduce Indian labourers have not been favourably entertained by the Indian Government, and attempts by other employers to engage Javanese or Chinese labourers for plantation work have not hitherto been attended with success.

With a continually increasing area of land being brought under cultivation, the local labour supply is totally inadequate even for present requirements, and there is not an employer in the Protectorate who would not largely increase the number of his labourers if it were possible to do so.

Recruiting in the Protectorate for Queensland plantations ceased in 1903, and for Fiji and other places outside the Protectorate in 1910.

About two-thirds of the total number of natives indentured for plantation work and for work on board coasting vessels come from the island of Malaita, and nearly all the remainder from the islands of San Cristoval and Guadalcanal.

The natives of the western part of the Protectorate have never engaged in any numbers for plantation work and only to a limited extent on board vessels.

The term of indenture is for two years, and the limit of age below which natives cannot engage is fixed at sixteen years.

The minimum rate of wage is £6 per annum, but natives who have had previous experience frequently command £12 per annum, and in exceptional cases receive up to £24 and even £36 per annum. The above rates are exclusive of housing, food and clothing.

On some plantations the supply of indentured labourers can be supplemented by the employment of natives living in the neighbourhood. These are engaged from month to month, and not being under indenture can leave at will, but the supply is uncertain and precarious.

The number of indentured labourers employed on the under-mentioned dates was as follows:—

31st March, 1911, 3,940; 31st December, 1912, 3,713.

The numbers employed by the three largest employers of labourers on the same dates were as follows:—

	31st March, 1911.	31st Dec., 1912.
Levers' Pacific Plantations, Limited	1,213	1,157
Malayta Co., Limited	649	631
Solomon Islands Development Co., Limited	465	287
Other employers (41)	1,613	(48) 1,638
	<u>3,940</u>	<u>3,713</u>

As recruiting for employment on plantations has never been carried on so vigorously as at present, it would appear that the limit of the available local supply has been reached, and the outlook is a most serious one.

Applicants for fresh leaseholds are in all cases warned of the difficulty in obtaining labourers, but it seems to have no effect upon the demand for land.

RAINFALL.

Monthly and yearly averages based on the observations of the fifteen years from 1898 to 1912 taken at the Government station, Tulagi:—

	Inches.
January	12·775
February	16·555
March	16·453

					Inches.
April	...	...	...	...	7·730
May	...	...	...	...	7·399
June	...	...	...	...	5·938
July	...	...	...	...	7·145
August	...	...	...	...	7·675
September	...	...	...	...	7·792
October	...	...	...	...	8·493
November	...	...	...	...	9·002
December	...	...	...	...	11·488

Yearly average, 118·445. 15 years.

AGRICULTURE.

The urgent cry on all hands is for more labourers, and until the question of a regular supply of labourers from some exterior source is arranged for, it is not to be expected that the progress of the Protectorate can continue at the same rate as has prevailed in the past.

During the last six years a larger area of land has been brought under coco-nuts in the Solomons than in any other group of islands in the Western Pacific. The area under coco-nuts systematically planted by white men is now estimated to approach 25,000 acres, exclusive altogether of native plantations.

Upwards of twenty limited liability companies in addition to private individuals are now engaged in planting operations in the Protectorate, representing a nominal capital of nearly £1,000,000, and the only available source of labour supply is local.

In spite of this fact more applications for land for coco-nut planting continue to be received, and the question of the labour supply is becoming daily more and more acute.

The number of native labourers working under indenture for two years or less, amounted at 31st December, 1912, to 3,713. During the six months from 1st January, 1913, to 30th June, 1913, the number of new indentures amounted only to 948, a number which would barely suffice to balance the number of indentures expired during the same period.

In addition to natives working under indenture, a certain number of natives are working on plantations in the neighbourhood of their own homes without indenture from month to month. If the number of these is estimated at about 1,200, it would give a total of only about 5,000 native labourers employed on an estimated area under cultivation of 25,000 acres, or one labourer to every five acres.

It will be evident that such a number is insufficient to keep existing plantations in order, and to collect the produce from those which have already reached the bearing stage, without regard to the bringing of new areas under cultivation. Either the work of maintenance or development must suffer.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate bids fair to be the largest producer of copra in the whole of the South Pacific before many years are past. With the limited and totally inadequate supply of labour, it has been recognised by planters that it is almost hopeless to devote capital at present to products which require a more plentiful and regular, and, to some extent, skilled labour supply.

Coco-nuts require nothing but unskilled labour, of course under proper supervision, and not so much of it as is necessary for rubber, cotton, and more intense cultivation.

The price of copra has been steadily rising, and with the increased demand for coco-nut oil for soap making and food purposes, there seems no reason to suppose that the low prices of ten and twenty years ago will again be touched.

Planters in the Solomons are therefore undoubtedly right in devoting their attention to coco-nuts in preference to other products, except perhaps bananas for the Australian market, which can be grown either as a separate crop or as a catch crop among young coco-nuts in localities where facilities exist for their ready shipment and conveyance in good condition to market.

It follows that planters in the Solomons have carefully kept themselves acquainted with the latest information that has been published upon the subject of coco-nut cultivation and the preparation of copra for export. They are always ready to learn anything fresh, but some of the instructions and theories advanced in recently published literature devoted to the coco-nut industry have been so extraordinary from the point of view of the Solomon Island planter, that it would appear that conditions in other parts of the world differ widely from those prevailing here.

Elaborate instructions have been given how and when to gather the nuts from the trees. The cost, even, of gathering per acre has been calculated. One authority has gone so far as to state the number of pickings there should be in the course of the year. In the Pacific, in the Solomons at any rate, it is not the custom to gather the nuts, but to allow them to fall naturally when ripe.

So important has this been considered that in Samoa the German authorities have prohibited by law the making of copra from any nuts but those that fall naturally from the trees when ripe.

Another authority gravely states that ripe nuts will not float in water, and this in face of the fact that here the ripe nuts are frequently bunched together and towed by sea with a rattan rope to the copra drier, a practice which also obtains in the Philippines.

Minute instructions have been given as to the formation of nurseries for young nuts for planting, and it has been recommended that they should be allowed to remain in the nursery a year, or even more, before being planted out.

Such advice is inconceivable to a planter with experience in the Solomons. The operation of transplanting a young nut that had been twelve or even six months in the nursery, would inevitably result in the destruction of the young and tender rootlets which would by that time have emerged through the husk. In fact, some authorities have recommended that these should be cut off

altogether at the time of transplanting. The check to the transplanted nut must be obvious in such a case, and the general consensus of opinion here appears to be that the young nuts should be removed from the nursery, if a nursery is necessary at all, as soon as the sprout shows through the husk, certainly before it is six inches long, and before the rootlets have pierced the husk.

By this means the nut suffers no check whatever in transplanting it into the position it is to occupy in the plantation, and should the shoot have suffered any injury by handling, it would be soon apparent, and the nut could be replaced.

Injury to nuts in this condition would be far less likely to occur than to nuts which had remained twelve months in the nursery, which would by that time have developed one or two pinnate fronds.

Various opinions are held upon the question of catch crops while the young coco-nuts are growing, and it is questionable whether the labour expended upon their production might not be better employed in clearing more land for planting with coco-nuts; but in the earlier stages of the plantation they would appear to be admissible, but it must not be lost sight of that anything taken out of the ground is robbing the coco-nuts.

Upon the extensive grass flats on the north coast of the island of Guadalcanal, which before planting were covered with a dense growth of "Lalang" grass, locally known as "ili," and subject to periodical grass fires during the dry seasons, some system of preliminary cropping was imperative.

The influential firm of Messrs. Lever, who own large areas of land in this grass country, have successfully coped with the difficulty of eradicating the lalang grass by disk ploughing and harrowing by steam, horses and cattle, followed by crops of velvet bean, cow pea, passion flower, and other cleaning crops which are ploughed in green before the coco-nuts are planted, but the work has been very costly.

The Solomon Islands Development Company in similar country has successfully extirpated the lalang grass by ploughing, and the subsequent planting of sweet potatoes and bananas concurrently with the coco-nuts.

In the case of forest land, it used formerly to be the custom on some plantations, after the first preliminary burning off, to plant the young coco-nuts before clearing away the fallen trunks of the larger trees, which were allowed to remain on the ground until they rotted away by the action of the weather and the attacks of white ants.

Cases have occurred where over-zealous managers, in order to be able to report to their employers a large acreage of nuts planted in a short time, have had to renew their young planted nuts in consequence of their having been burnt by the preliminary fires.

This system is now generally condemned, and the land is cleared of all trunks of fallen trees by successive heaping up of the logs and burning off until nothing but the roots and stumps of the larger trees are left before the coco-nuts are planted.

Dead timber presents an irresistible attraction to wood-boring beetles and white ants, and it is obvious that when the timber has been more or less eaten up, they will turn their attention to the young and tender coco-nut palms. The less dead timber on the land after the coco-nuts are planted the better.

Opinions vary as to the distance apart at which coco-nuts should be planted, but in the Solomons it is almost universally conceded that the distance should not be less than thirty feet.

On many plantations the coco-nuts are planted thirty feet apart on the quincunx system; but another method, much favoured and highly recommended, is planting on a system of equilateral triangles, the sides of each triangle measuring 33 feet.

The laying out of an area for planting on this system is very simple. An ordinary Gunter's steel tape chain of 66 feet is marked at its centre, 33 feet from each end. A straight line is then laid out and pegs are put in at every interval of 33 feet numbered, for the sake of example, from 1 to 10. For the second line, one end of the chain is taken to peg 1, and the other end to peg 2. The bight of the chain is then taken out between the two, and when stretched tight gives at the 33 foot mark the position for peg No. 1 in the second line, and so on to pegs No. 2 and 3, &c. By this method every tree is exactly 33 feet from its next neighbours. The system gives nearly fifty trees to the acre, to be exact, about 49.2.

Upon some of the larger plantations the use of high explosives has lately come into use for eradicating stumps and breaking up and loosening the subsoil previous to planting the young coco-nuts.

The coco-nut is normally a surface feeder, but doubtless, if the roots had an opportunity of penetrating into the crevices of pulverised coral limestone or the hard clay pan which forms the subsoil of many of the areas planted, they would do so.

One objection to the use of dynamite is the difficulty of arranging for its transportation on steamers, but a new explosive is at present being experimented with. This is claimed to have all the explosive power of dynamite and to be perfectly safe to carry.

It consists of two constituents, said to be perfectly non-explosive until mixed, viz., chlorate of potash and a substance called oil of myrbane.

The cartridge of chlorate of potash is dipped for a few seconds in the oil before use and is fired by the ordinary fuse and detonator.

The employment of this explosive will be further reported upon.

PESTS OF THE COCO-NUT PALM.

About the time when large areas of forest land were being cleared for the formation of coco-nut plantations, the young trees in almost every part of the Protectorate were attacked by the phytophagous larva of a small beetle, and very serious damage occurred upon some of the plantations. The same beetle had been previously observed on coco-nut plantations in New Britain where it was equally destructive.

The mature beetle, which measured about half an inch in length, laid its eggs among the folds of the tender opening fronds, and the larvæ fed upon them as they expanded, causing serious damage to the growth of the young trees.

The attacks of the larvæ were at once apparent in consequence of the brown and withered appearance presented by the young leaves as they unfolded.

The cause of this insect turning its attention to the coco-nut trees was doubtless due to the destruction of much of its natural food by the cutting down of the forest trees.

So serious did the damage become on some plantations that Messrs. Lever enlisted the services of Mr. W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S., Government Entomologist for New South Wales, and he paid a visit to the Protectorate.

The result of his observations are contained in a pamphlet published in Sydney shortly after his return, entitled "Pests and Diseases of the Coco-nut Palm."*

This very useful pamphlet should be in the possession of all interested in coco-nut planting in the Protectorate.

Specimens of the beetle above referred to were submitted by Mr. Froggatt to Dr. David Sharpe, the well-known authority on the *Coleoptera*, and he described it as a member of the family of *Chrysomelidae* under the name of *Brontisna Froggatti*. A figure of the beetle and larva is given in Mr. Froggatt's monograph.

Several remedies were suggested. Amongst others, Messrs. Lever introduced Australian magpies and Indian mynahs to their Russell Island plantations, but although some still survive, they have not at present increased to any great extent.

Treatment with wood ashes, Bordeaux mixture, or a mixture composed of an infusion of tobacco refuse in boiling water with the addition of a certain quantity of soap have been employed with greater success, and for the last two years little has been heard of the ravages of this beetle, although means are still taken to keep it in check. The damage appears to be more serious to young trees, and it appears that, as the trees grow older and the young leaves are produced at a greater rate, the trees are better fitted to resist the damage caused by the larvæ.

Two species of large *lamellicorn* beetles, viz., *Xylotrupes nimerod*, known as the elephant beetle, and *Trichogomphus semelinki*, known as the rhinoceros beetle, are also looked upon as serious enemies in coco-nut plantations. They do damage by boring into the stem of the tree. The point of entrance selected is frequently the white crescent-shaped scar immediately under the crown of the tree whence the last mature frond has fallen and where the skin is consequently soft. The tree rarely dies, but its growth may be much retarded.

* "Pests and Diseases of the Coco-nut Palm." By W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S., Government Entomologist, N.S. Wales. Department of Agriculture N.S. Wales, Bulletin No. 11, May 1911. Printed by the Government Printer, Sydney, N.S. Wales.

Old trees, in a perfect state of health and in full bearing, can be pointed out almost anywhere, showing the holes caused by former attacks of these beetles upon their stems.

The beetles, being large and conspicuous objects, are easily caught, but it does not appear to be generally known that the bark or rind of the young branches of the tree known as the flamboyant acacia (*Boinciana regia*) seems to present an irresistible attraction to the mature beetles of these species.

At certain times of the year, from about August to December, the beetles may be collected in dozens from the branches of this tree where it has been planted.

It would seem, therefore, to be advisable to plant a few of these very ornamental trees as traps upon all coco-nut plantations where these beetles occur.

Froggatt observes that an allied species, the Queensland elephant beetle (*Xylotrupes australicus*), is similarly attracted by the jacaranda tree, a tree which is allied to the poinciana.

The two species of *lamellicorns* above referred to are undoubtedly indigenous to the Solomons and have not been introduced by the importation of plants or trees from elsewhere in recent years, since the writer was well acquainted with them nearly thirty years ago, when they were met with from one end of the Solomons to the other.

One of them, or an allied species, has recently made its appearance in Samoa, where it was undoubtedly introduced in imported plants. It is said to be doing great damage to the coco-nut palms, but first reports may be alarmist. In Fiji it appears to be at present unknown.

Two or three conspicuous species of *Lucanid*, or "stag beetles," are also suspected of causing damage to the coco-nut palm. Froggatt confidently convicts one species, *Eurytrachelus pilosipes*. Two others are known, but have not been described. The writer is doubtful upon this point, while admitting that the beetles can frequently be collected by the dozen from the flowering spathes of the coco-nut trees.

It is certain that the larvæ of all wood-boring beetles prefer dead wood rather than green, and the obvious deduction is that the cleaner a plantation is kept from all dead and rotting timber and other refuse, the less danger will there be from the attacks of wood-boring beetles.

Bud rot of the coco-nut palm is, happily, at present almost unknown in the Solomons, but is stated to have made its appearance in one or two places. The effects of lightning may have been mistaken for this dread disease.

Coco-nuts appear to be particularly liable to be struck by lightning, and the damage frequently involves not only the tree actually struck, but three or four of its neighbours appear to be affected, and eventually succumb.

The question of artificial fertilisers for coco-nut plantations on a wholesale scale has not at present been considered, but, as soon as the young trees have grown sufficiently high to be out of

their reach, cattle may be fed under them with great advantage. The benefit to the trees where cattle are so employed is quickly apparent. The growth of a good sward of grass is produced and the necessity for continuous weeding is obviated.

Cattle thrive wonderfully in the Solomons, but, unfortunately, on one large plantation a report has been received that Queensland tick fever has been introduced by cattle imported from Australia. It has been wisely decided to kill off the whole herd.

Previous to the formation of plantations in the Solomons by white men, the whole of the copra exported was smoke-dried, and this slovenly way of preparation still prevails to a great extent.

On the larger plantations, however, especially on those owned by Messrs. Lever, experiments have been carried out for years with the view of perfecting a kiln for drying the green kernel by fire heat. They have at last been attended with a considerable degree of success, but at the cost of large expense.

As the kiln-dried copra is worth from £1 to £2 per ton more than the smoke-dried at the place of shipment, it is obviously advantageous to go to the expense of a kiln when large quantities of copra are handled, in spite of the high initial expense. It is probable that in a few years the use of the kiln will almost entirely supersede the operation of drying over an open fire.

The most efficient form of kiln employed consists of a house of corrugated galvanised iron with an enclosed furnace on the ground. The flues, constructed of fire bricks and sheet iron, extend beneath the whole area of the floor, and there is an external shaft of sufficient height to ensure a good draught. A system of trays composed of angle iron and woven wire, running on wheels, are arranged one above the other within the house. As much as from one to two tons of copra can be treated within the twenty-four hours. The quantity, of course, depends entirely upon the size of the structure.

The husks of the coco-nuts supply fuel for the furnace, and are better so employed than in an attempt to turn them to commercial use by the manufacture of coir fibre.

The only possible market for this product would be in Australia, where the demand is very limited, and it would hardly return the cost of labour and freight.

Bananas.—These have been successfully grown for shipment to Sydney from one plantation only at present, during the last two years, and have brought the highest prices prevailing at the time on the Sydney market.

As many as three thousand bunches have been sent in one shipment. The industry is at present quite in its infancy, but is being extended. Some small areas conveniently situated near the last shipping port have recently been taken up with the view of devoting them exclusively to the growth of this product.

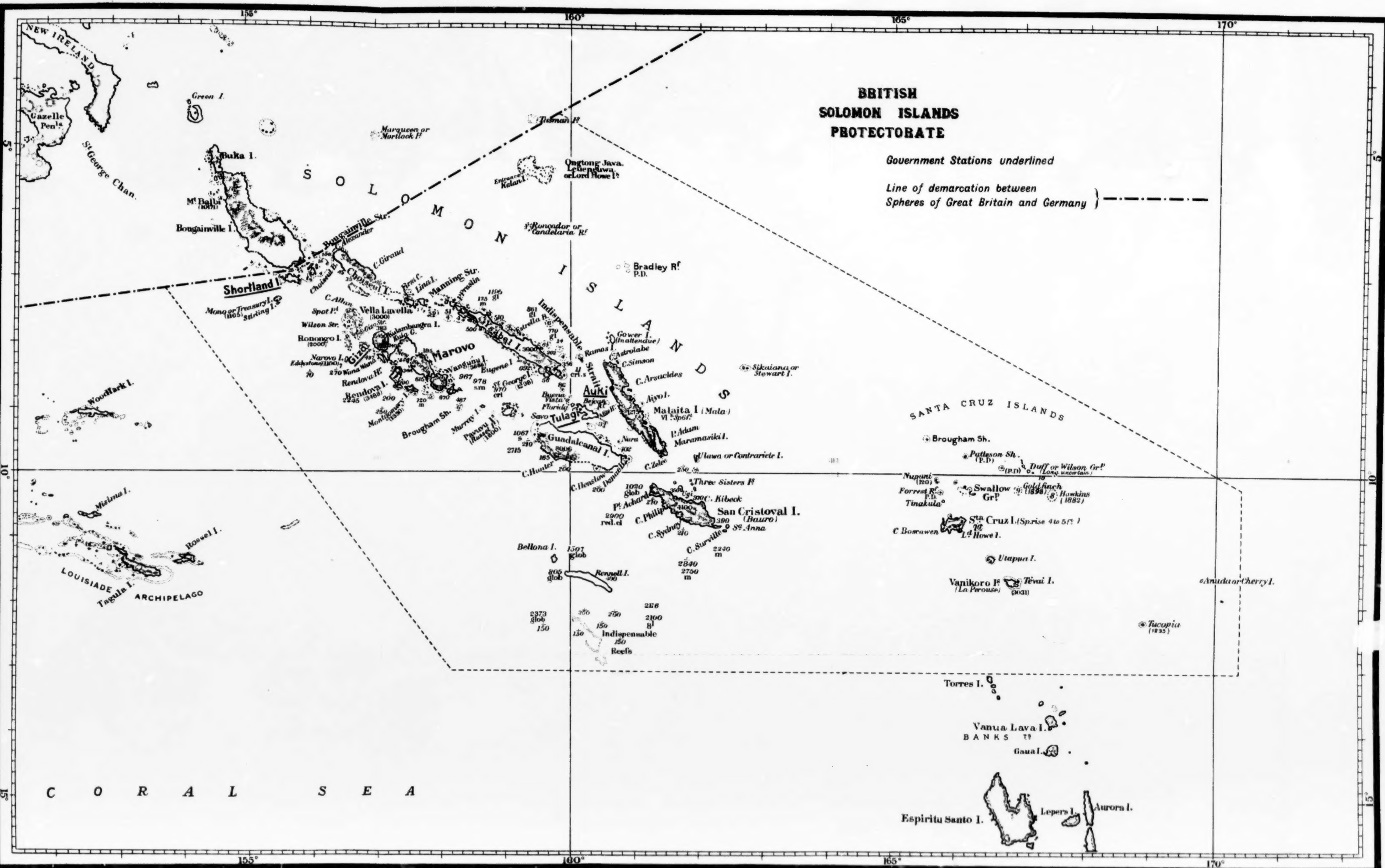
The Solomons have more than once benefited by the misfortune of Fiji, when the shipments of bananas from that place have been prevented owing to hurricanes. From this disadvantage the Solomons are fortunately free.

The variety grown for shipment is the Gros Michel, which, although not to be compared in flavour with the old Cavendish, or

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE

Government Stations underlined

Line of demarcation between
Spheres of Great Britain and Germany } - . - . - .



the even more delicate Lady's Finger, is of a larger size and more suited for a market banana.

As the trade grows, as it is certain to do, it is to be expected that a more frequent service of communication between the Protectorate and Sydney will be required, and the provision of such increased service may well be left in the hands of the two firms who supply the present communication on fixed schedule dates.

A proposal has recently been made by an association of planters to arrange for another steamer for the carriage of bananas, but the bananas are not at present there for shipment. On a basis of 20,000 bunches per trip—and even this quantity would not pay a special steamer—it would be two or three years at the earliest before any such quantity would be ready for shipment.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.							Year.
742	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
743	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-1912
744	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-1912
746	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
747	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
748	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
749	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
750	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-1912
752	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-1912
755	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912
756	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
757	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
758	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	...	1911-1912
759	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912
760	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
761	Somaliland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912-1913
762	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
764	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
766	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
767	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
768	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
769	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912-1913
770	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912
771	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
772	Nyasaland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1912-1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.				Subject.
75	West Indies	...	...	...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	...	...	...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	...	...	...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 869.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1914-15.

(For previous Report see No. 774.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1915.



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A sketch map of the Protectorate will be found in Report No. 774: [Cd. 7050-15].

No. 869.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Office of the High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji,
9th August, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter from the Acting Resident Commissioner of the Solomon Islands, transmitting copies of the Protectorate, for the financial Report on year 1914-1915.

I have, &c.,

BICKHAM ESCOTT,
High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Office of the Resident Commissioner,
Tulagi,
8th July, 1915.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

In compliance with the instructions contained in the circular letter of the Secretary of State dated 2nd March, 1914, I have the honour to transmit copies of a Report on this Protectorate for the year ended 31st March, 1915.

I have, &c.,

F. J. BARNETT,
Acting Resident Commissioner.

His Excellency
Sir Bickham Escott, K.C.M.G.,
High Commissioner
for the Western Pacific,
Suva, Fiji.

REPORT FOR 1914-1915 ON THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

POPULATION.

EUROPEAN.

No census of the population has been taken during the past year, but it is known that the European population is steadily increasing, and at the present time there must be over 600 settled in various parts of the group; of this total 35 represent those, with their wives and families, in Government employ, and 98 are engaged in Mission work.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Since 1st July, 1913, 3 births, 4 marriages, and 16 deaths have been registered. The deaths include 1 infant, 2 females, and 13 males, the causes being malaria 6, dysentery 4, pneumonia 2, heart disease 1, blood-poisoning 1, drowning 1, effects of diving 1.

NATIVE POPULATION.

The native population has been estimated to be 150,000, including the natives of the outlying islands of Santa Cruz and Lord Howe. Owing to various causes the native population is said to be decreasing; during the past eighteen months a large number has been carried off by dysentery; the island of San Cristoval appears to have lost more from this cause than other islands, whilst in some districts whole villages were wiped out. Malaita remains the most densely populated, but dysentery and the continual fighting among themselves must have greatly reduced the numbers. On Choiseul, where there has been incessant intertribal fighting during the past year, it is reported that numbers of men, women, and children have been killed. In the Shortland district the decrease is very marked; most of the natives remaining are refugees from the island of Bougainville, who have settled in and about the Shortland Islands. As comparatively few young children are to be seen about native villages, it may be taken as a sure indication that the birth-rate is decreasing.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

Shipping facilities to and from the Protectorate have been maintained by the steamers of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company, Limited, and Levers' Pacific Plantations, Limited, each company running a steamer, of about 2,000 tons, every six weeks from Sydney, thus providing a regular three-weekly service. The war has not caused any serious break in the service, although it was found necessary by Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., to place, for a short time, a smaller vessel on the run.

From the outset of the war both companies raised the rates of freight and passages by 25 per cent. This extra rate was taken off in February. The line of steamers trading to the Gilbert, Ellice, and Marshall Islands, which made Tulagi a port of call prior to the outbreak of war, had to discontinue the calling, but it is now to be resumed.

Local and inter-island shipping is well maintained by a fleet of small steamers and auxiliary vessels, but there is no regularity in their running, which is arranged as circumstances demand. The two oversea steamers, after reporting at Tulagi, proceed as far as Shortland and call at several ports, collecting freights and delivering cargo. Their stay in the group is seventeen days.

Inward freights are steadily increasing, but the war has had its effects on exports. The increasing export of copra has not made up for the total collapse of the ivory nut trade, the regular shipments of which formerly amounted to several hundred tons by each steamer. There has also been a marked falling off in the export of shell.

Trade in the group has been good. Prices have naturally increased all round on imported goods, and, notwithstanding the falling markets for island produce, traders have kept going. It speaks well for the Protectorate that there has not been any commercial failures, although it is probable that a few of the smaller traders will have to withdraw until the market rates for copra and other products are commensurate with the increased prices paid for all commodities.

COPRA.

The production of copra, the principal item of export, is steadily increasing. Coconut plantations that were established some eight years ago are in bearing, the average crop being up to the most sanguine expectations. A falling off of the produce from native trees has resulted from the fall in price of copra, as the natives, not understanding the cause of the drop in price, were reluctant to sell, and preferred to let the nuts rot on the ground rather than accept the lower price offered by traders.

Since last year there has not been any appreciable improvement or increase in the cultivation of coconuts, planters being restricted by shortage of labour and the general disinclination to extend operations during the continuance of the war.

IVORY NUTS.

The closing of the market for this item has been a serious blow to the Protectorate. Ivory nuts are grown extensively throughout the group and the export provided a profitable living for a number of small traders. Prior to the outbreak of war the price paid was £11 per ton. At the present time there must be many hundreds of tons going to waste; even at the reduced price of £6 to £7 the industry would find employment for many and quite £20,000 in value would be realised annually. The loss of this item of trade has not been made good by any other item.

BANANAS.

The cultivation of bananas for export is still in the hands of a few growers in the eastern part of the group, and there is no reason why a very extensive trade should not be opened up with Australia. The prices realised on the fruit shipped have been very encouraging, and that fact should induce other persons to take up the cultivation of this highly remunerative product. Planters in the western part were anxious to grow bananas for the Sydney market, but could not come to any arrangement with the shipping companies, which would not entertain the proposal to take their final departure from a western port as the support offered did not warrant a special steamer. This means that banana growing will be restricted to places within easy distance of Tulagi, the port of final departure.

COTTON.

The cultivation of cotton has been abandoned, mainly owing to the scarcity of suitable cheap labour to gather the crops.

RUBBER.

No progress has been made in the cultivation of rubber.

SHELL.

The war seriously affected the price of all kinds of pearl shell, and shipments in transit at the outbreak of war were held up in Sydney, and for several months no shell was exported. Latterly a market has been established and the trade has been renewed; the prices are lower, but traders are satisfied with the returns.

TIMBER.

The export of timber logs, principally Dilo (*Callophyllum inophyllum*), which up to six months ago gave promise of great expansion, suddenly ceased, the Sydney buyers, for some reason not known, having cancelled their arrangements. At the present time the industry is at a standstill. There is no reason why the timbers of the Protectorate should not be used locally; the importation of timber from Australia forms a large item and the high rates for freight should alone be a sufficient inducement for the establishment of saw mills. Thousands of valuable logs are destroyed in clearing land, whereas, with a small, well-managed sawing plant, they could be turned to great profit, and rough sawn timber would be extensively used in the construction of labour lines and work sheds. The price for imported timber for building purposes averages 30s. per 100 feet super.

STOCK.

The Protectorate has been found to be well suited for raising cattle, and many plantations have herds grazing among the coconuts, thus saving a great number of labourers in the clearing of undergrowth. A regulation to protect and guard against stock diseases will shortly be introduced. Sheep have not done well, but pigs thrive and prove a source of great profit to the breeders.

ADMINISTRATION IN THE PROTECTORATE.

In January last Mr. C. M. Woodford, C.M.G., the Resident Commissioner, retired from the service on a well earned pension. Mr. Woodford had been for many years associated with the Solomon Islands, and, from the establishment of the British Protectorate, successfully carried out the very arduous task of developing and establishing the Government. In the early days this was no easy matter, and lately the work incidental to controlling a new and rapidly progressing Protectorate was beset with many difficulties, which by tact and ability he was able to overcome.

No successor to Mr. Woodford has so far been appointed, the Government in the meantime being administered by Mr. F. J. Barnett, the Treasurer and Collector of Customs.

The rapid development of the Group has necessitated an increased staff of officers. Formerly everything was done from the Resident Commissioner's Office, but the work has now been distributed among different departments. The advancement all round now demands that the departmental staff be increased to cope with the work. The establishment of a wireless station at Tulagi, while bringing the place in closer touch with the outside world, will also increase work and responsibilities. The Medical, Native Labour, Survey, Public Works, Police and Prisons Departments are developing, and improvements are being effected. The control of native affairs, always a difficult problem, is receiving great attention, but it is expected that some years must elapse before complete control of the natives can be brought about.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

I append the following statistics of revenue and expenditure, and of imports and exports for the past three years:—

	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.
	£	£	£
Revenue	15,432	24,520	22,646
Expenditure	16,500	18,565	23,146
Imports	131,761	162,761	133,062
Exports	109,921	148,265	87,539

F. J. BARNETT,

Acting Resident Commissioner.

6th July, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
835	St. Vincent	1913-1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913-1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Wei-hai-wei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914-1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914-1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914-1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914-1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914-1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914-1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT 100-100000

RE: [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

REPORT OF [illegible]

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 367.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1917-18.

(For previous Report see No. 366.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1918.



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or from E. BONSIBBY, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

1918.

Price 1d. Net

[Cd. 8973-16]

No. 967.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.*

	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Revenue	£22,006	£27,834	£31,697
Expenditure	26,425	23,358	25,000
Imports	135,800	139,358	154,743
Exports	102,652	109,386	149,743

No new taxation was imposed during the year.

Trade has been good, and would have been better if shipping facilities had not been reduced.

Communications with Sydney are maintained by steamers belonging to Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company and inter-island communications by three small steamers owned by Messrs. Levers Pacific Plantations Company and by various small sailing craft.

	1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
Shipping inwards tons	24,726	32,224	21,146
Shipping outwards „	23,260	33,273	21,006

The chief industry is the production of copra which, now that many plantations are coming into bearing, will show a large increase in the near future. The export in tons during the last three years has been :—

1915-16.	1916-17.	1917-18.
5,932	5,927	6,943

The vital problem of labour affects the development of the Protectorate. The total number employed in 1917 was 3,824 (as against 4,253 in the previous year), and of this number 1,356 were recruited on Malaita where, it is feared, the population is stationary, and the cost of obtaining recruits has reached the prohibitive price of £18 per head.

Some thousands of cattle have been introduced but the reappearance of the Queensland cattle tick has caused alarm in the Protectorate.

With increased shipping it is believed that a large trade would be built up.

Civil and Criminal cases are held either at Tulagi by the Judicial Commissioner or in the districts by the Deputy Commissioners.

The native population on most of the islands is law-abiding but the absence of any native civil service or administration renders difficult the task of bringing offenders to justice.

* A Sketch Map of the Protectorate will be found in Report No. 774 : [Cd. 7050-15].

No complete native census has ever been taken, nor will this be possible until roads are made and the pacification of the hill tribes in the large islands of Choiseul and Malaita brought about.

The death returns of plantation labour show a decrease over the three preceding years.

1917-18	..	..	..	74 deaths
1916-17	..	..	..	114 "
1915-16	..	..	..	119 "
1914-15	..	..	..	172 "

The non-native population is approximately 800, including Government officials, 28 (3 of whom are on active service). It is, to a considerable degree, a floating population, and of the 225 passports received from persons arriving from overseas the majority were newcomers.

Since the beginning of the War, 69 residents of the Protectorate have gone on active service.

The number of births was 1 European, 1 Chinese.

The number of deaths was 6 (European).

There are no Government or State-aided schools in the Protectorate. Many of the natives repatriated from Queensland ten years ago have an elementary knowledge of reading and writing. The younger generation have opportunities of attending schools maintained by the various Missions.

Rainfall.

1915	..	..	..	62·97 inches
1916	..	..	..	168·63 "
1917	..	..	..	147·32 "

The following statistics for the postal department were collected during the year under review:—

Letters despatched	..	..	..	19,384
Letters received	..	..	..	27,044
Other articles despatched	..	..	..	1,253
Other articles received	..	..	..	35,312
Value of money orders issued	..	..	..	£3,389
Value of postal orders issued	..	..	..	£49
Value of money orders paid	..	..	..	£253
Value of postal orders paid	..	..	..	£60

At the Wireless Station 461 messages were transmitted and 509 received.

The authorised strength of the police for the year was 2 officers and 91 non-commissioned officers and men. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining men who can read and write, and in retaining men for a longer period than a two years' engagement.

The problem of Malaita remains unsolved, but with adequate means of transport it is believed that law and order could be established.

Twenty-four definite murders reported during the year in respect of which no arrests were made show that conditions on Malaita are unsettled and differ from the peaceful life of the rest of the group, where, except on Choiseul, serious crime is of rare occurrence.

The accommodation and site of the old Gaol having been found unsatisfactory, a temporary building on higher ground has been constructed which affords more space and air for the inmates. The difficulty of the prison system here is to obtain warders capable of supervising work and of enforcing discipline.

The number of prisoners committed to prison during the year was 85, 81 of whom were natives, the others being 2 Europeans and 2 Chinese. They were charged with the following crimes:—

Murder	..	..	..	..	20
Sexual crimes	..	..	..	..	10
Larceny	..	..	..	..	35
Assault	..	..	..	..	4
Various	..	..	..	..	16
					—
					85

36 prisoners were discharged during the year, 2 executed, and 4 died.

The area of the Protectorate extends 900 miles in a north westerly and south easterly direction. Roads are non-existent save on Guadalcanal, which differs in configuration from the other islands.

It will be impossible to construct the roads which are urgently required without the assistance of the natives, who have neither local regulations nor taxation.

The Government maintains a despatch boat, the "Belama," which covered the following distances in the last three years:—

In 1915	..	..	..	12,498 miles
In 1916	..	..	..	2,839 "
In 1917	..	..	..	3,105 "

Small auxiliary craft are attached to the Police and Native Labour Departments, and similar vessels or launches are required by district officers, as all travelling has to be done by sea.

The Government maintains a Hospital at headquarters with a staff consisting of a medical officer, a European trained nurse, and four native warders.

Fourteen European patients and 180 natives were admitted during the year.

The usefulness of the Medical Department is almost restricted to Tulagi owing to the absence of any district medical administration and means of transport. At the western end of the group the District Officer of the Shortlands is also a Medical Officer.

Tightness of money on account of the War has retarded the development of new properties.

Seven leases of Crown land and nine of native land have been granted during the year.

Up to the present time 47 native land leases bearing commission, 8 bearing no commission, 110 Government land leases, and 10 occupation licences of waste land have been granted in all.

The appointment of a Land Commission will settle the numerous disputes which are inevitable in a community of this kind.

The influx of Chinese recently has led to their getting much of the native trade into their hands. There are 61 Chinese in the Group now, most of whom reside on Tulagi, which has become the centre of attraction because the majority of time-expired indentured labour is paid off here.

A paper currency has been issued this year. Little gold is in circulation and only £1,065 Protectorate paper money. The chief medium of exchange is by Commonwealth Bank Notes.

Native money is still largely used in the remoter parts of the Solomons where the only civilizing influence is that of the Missions.

Tulagi.

20 April, 1918.

C. H. WORKMAN,
Acting Resident Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916-1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916-1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916-1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916-1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916-1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Wei-hai-wei	"
966	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
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86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1027.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1918-19.

(For Report for 1917-18 see No. 967.)

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February, 1920.



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23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
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1920.

[Cmd. 508-11.]

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No. 1027.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.*

The Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years were as follows :—

		1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Revenue		£27,834	£30,564	£29,476
Expenditure		23,358	26,120	30,205
Imports		139,358	154,743	188,408
Exports		109,386	149,743	170,125

Since the beginning of the War the Customs Tariff has remained unaltered, and with the exception of a Regulation regarding trade licences (VI of 1916) and liquor licences (II of 1918) no revenue has been raised from increased taxation.

Trade has been affected by lack of shipping, strikes in Australia, and the influenza epidemic.

The returns show a considerable decrease in consequence.

		1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Shipping inwards	tons	32,224	21,146	16,979
Shipping outwards	„	33,273	21,006	16,278

The export of copra has increased by approximately 50 per cent., as is shown by the following figures. This increase would have been still greater if more tonnage had been available.

		1916-17.	1917-18.	1918-19.
Copra exported	.. tons	5,927	6,943	9,891

The vast potentialities of this Protectorate can only be developed by an adequate labour supply, which cannot be obtained locally. On December 31st, 1918, there were 3,019 natives under indenture, as compared with 3,824 twelve months before, and the cost of recruiting is still going up.

Shell has realised high prices—539 tons of trocas have been shipped, with a value of £13,211.

Applications for grazing and timber rights on a large scale have been received, and there are great possibilities for these industries in the Protectorate.

In the more settled districts a census has been taken, but it is impossible to form even an approximate estimate of the numbers on the two large islands of Choiseul and Malaita.

The total population of the Protectorate has been commonly reported to be about 150,000, but it is difficult to believe that more than 100,000 inhabit Choiseul and Malaita.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 867 [Cd. 7622-58].

The following lists have been compiled this year for the first time :—

Guadalcanal	..	..	..	8,605
San Cristoval	..	..	..	8,424
Gizo District	..	..	..	7,500 (approximate)
Ysabel	..	..	..	3,878
Shortlands	..	..	..	600

Assessing Florida and the Russell Group at 3,000 and the non-native residents at 1,000, it is conjectured that the total population does not exceed 100,000.

From records kept during the year on San Cristoval it appears that there were 73 births as against 114 deaths.

In the Western Solomons also the population is steadily decreasing and few children are born.

The rainfall for the last three years has been :—

1916	..	..	..	168·63 inches.
1917	..	..	..	147·32 „
1918	..	..	..	120·40 „

In the Postal Department the return of business remained much as in the previous year.

	1917-18.	1918-19.
Letters despatched	19,384	21,175
Letters received	27,044	27,418
Money orders issued	£3,389	£2,797
Money orders paid	£253	£147
Wireless messages transmitted ..	461	571
Wireless messages received	509	533

The strength of the Police Force stands at 92 of all ranks, one third of whom are stationed on Malaita. Until adequate means of transport are provided, it would be inadvisable to add materially to the establishment. Progress has been made with the pacification of Malaita, and two of the most notorious murderers on that island have been captured.

Since the removal of the gaol to a temporary site on the weather side of Tulagi the health of the inmates has been much improved.

The number of prisoners admitted during the year was 78 (as against 85 in 1917-18). 59 were discharged time-expired, 7 died in hospital, 2 were transferred to Fiji, and 3 were executed. Discipline was good and no corporal punishment was inflicted.

In addition to the four established districts of Malaita, Gizo, Guadalcanal, and Shortlands two temporary Government Stations have been opened on Ysabel and San Cristoval.

The lack of a native civil service makes it difficult for district officers to be away from their headquarters for any length of time, but it is hoped that improved transport will facilitate their movements and lead to an extension of Government influence.

The mountainous configuration of all the principal islands and the absence of roads hinder intercourse with the hill tribes, especially in the interior of Choiseul and Malaita.

A system of medical administration is urgently required to penetrate the scattered villages and to work in conjunction with the native headmen who are being appointed wherever suitable men can be

found. The democratic polity of the Melanesians and the backwardness of the bulk of the people cause the work of district administration to make slow progress.

Shortage of benzine has been severely felt during the year, and recruiting on Malaita, which is carried out by auxiliary schooners, was held up for a time by quarantine regulations.

The Protectorate owns one small steamer and two small craft. The former traversed 11,334 miles in 1918, and the two latter about 8,000 miles between them.

The Government maintains a hospital at Tulagi with a medical officer, two European nurses, and four native warders.

21 Europeans and 177 natives were admitted during the course of the year with 16 deaths (3 Europeans and 13 natives). The natives at large only receive medical attention when living near Government or Mission Stations.

It is hoped that in time a staff of native orderlies may be trained and distributed over the Protectorate under the supervision of a travelling medical officer.

No cases of Spanish influenza occurred in the group, but a mild form of influenza passed through the islands causing a temporary dislocation of business, but there were very few deaths and none amongst the white population.

The effect of the War has been but slightly felt, and the prosperity of the Protectorate, based mainly as it is on the output of copra, will continue if a solution of the labour problem can be found.

The high cost of foodstuffs has induced the more far-seeing planters to grow native crops in greater quantity than heretofore, but the majority still rely on Australian imports for their native labour.

Though large tracts of land still await development, more applications have been received than in any one previous year and fifteen native leases and five Crown leases have been granted.

In consequence of the Regulation removing the embargo on the payment of wages in Protectorate currency notes, local paper money to the value of £4,154 has been circulated as against £1,065 in 1917-18, though Commonwealth bank notes remain the chief medium of exchange.

With the coming of peace it is probable that Sydney will no longer enjoy a monopoly of the trade with the Solomon Islands. The dependence on a single line of steamers running a seven-weekly service must give way to better communication and nothing would give so great an impetus to the group as direct sailings to America and Europe *via* Panama and to the east by way of Rabaul, as these islands lie in the track from Hong Kong to Australia.

Tulagi,
30th September, 1919.

CHARLES WORKMAN,
Resident Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917-1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917-1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	"
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917-1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918-1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917-1918
1021	Somaliland	1918-1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918-1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"
1026	British Honduras	1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey 1908-9
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
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87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1060.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1919–20.

(For Report for 1918–19 see No. 1027.)

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23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH ;
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1921.

[Cmd. 1103-3.]

Price 1*d.* Net.

No. 1060.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.*

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1919-20.

I.—FINANCIAL.

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£
Revenue	30,564	29,476	34,545
Expenditure	26,120	30,205	37,640

The imposition of an export duty of—

10s. per ton on Copra,	
15s. „ „ „ Ivory nuts,	
£1 10s. „ „ „ Trocas and green snail shell,	
£10 0s. „ „ „ Goldlip pearl shell,	

has brought about a considerable increase in Revenue.

II.—TRADE AND LABOUR.

(i)	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	£	£	£
Imports	154,743	188,408	181,162
Exports	149,743	170,125	212,542
The total trade of the Protectorate thus amounted to nearly £400,000.			

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Shipping inwards	21,146	16,979	12,435
Shipping outwards	21,006	16,278	12,387

Lack of shipping, strikes in Australia, and influenza have again affected the shipping total, which, small as it is, included three loading schooners for San Francisco.

For those reasons the copra exported shows a decrease on the previous year, the figures being as follows :—

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.
Copra exported	6,943 tons	9,891 tons	8,160 tons

though the high prices realised gave a value of £194,046.

The exports next in value were trocas shell £13,638 and ivory nuts £3,270.

The increase in imports has been due to the rise in prices not to the additional quantities.

Rice £22,557, drapery £19,905, tobacco £17,304, tinned fish and meat £12,858, sacks £8,526, have been the chief items.

(ii) Labour returns show a total of 5,490 under employment during the year.

2,028 were recruited as compared with 1,966 in 1918.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 867 [Cd. 7622-58].

There are about 150 estates, large and small, under cultivation and 27 schooners and three steamers employed in recruiting, but for two months of the year they were idle in consequence of the influenza epidemic.

On 31st December, 1919, there were 3,483 under indenture (66 per cent. Malaita men) as compared with 3,019 and 3,824 in the two preceding years.

III.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The absence of any organised native administration and lack of transport makes it impossible to obtain accurate returns of the population, but District Officers have devoted much time and attention to this purpose during the year, and on some islands careful records of births and deaths have been made. They all show a diminishing birth-rate, the most serious loss being on San Cristoval with 401 deaths and 241 births.

Depopulation is attributed to various causes amongst which must be placed the epidemics of dysentery and influenza.

Amongst non-natives 7 deaths were recorded during the year and amongst indentured natives 104 deaths, giving a death-rate of 19 per thousand.

IV.—POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

	1918-19.	1919-20.
Letters despatched	21,175	22,915
Letters received	27,418	25,037
Money Orders issued	£2,797	£2,526
Money Orders paid	£147	£181
Wireless transmitted	571	821
Wireless received	533	943

V.—POLICE AND PRISONS.

The establishment remains as in the previous year.

Recruiting has become more popular and the nucleus of a long service force is being gradually formed by the re-engagement of men up to four years.

In addition to the gaol at Tulagi, short-sentence prisoners are employed at the six out-stations where temporary lock-ups are provided.

The number of prisoners admitted at Tulagi during the year was 82. Forty-nine were discharged time-expired, six died in hospital, none were executed. Discipline was good.

VI.—TRANSPORT.

For five months of the year the "Belama" was away at Rabaul for overhaul. In spite of this prolonged absence, her mileage was 13,961 as compared with 11,334 miles in 1918 and 3,105 in 1917. The increasing cost of coal, and the difficulty of obtaining oil from Australia are most serious detriments to this Protectorate. A further handicap is the absence of slips or yards where any considerable repairs can be done. With the large number of auxiliary and sailing craft in the Protectorate a profitable industry might be developed if expert labour could be attracted for this work.

VII.—MEDICAL.

During the months of March, April and May there was a widespread epidemic of influenza with characteristics not previously experienced in this Protectorate, but similar in kind to the pandemic disease found everywhere else.

At Tulagi, out of 225 cases there were 8 deaths, but it is impossible to estimate the numbers who died on the other islands. The complications and sequelæ noticed after influenza were for the most part, so far as could be observed, bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pleurisy.

Recruiting was stopped for two months and all indentured labour were inoculated with vaccine supplied from Melbourne.

The natives at large were without treatment except those in the vicinity of Government or Mission Stations.

Admissions to Tulagi Hospital numbered 520, of whom 35 were Europeans and 485 natives. The number of deaths was 30—3 in the European wards, 27 in the native wards.

4,436 out-patients were treated.

Malaria in its various manifestations, and dysentery affect Europeans and natives equally, and during the year, which has been one of exceptional sickness, few have escaped.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Rainfall.

1917	..	..	..	147·32 inches.
1918	..	..	..	120·40 „
1919	..	..	..	100·16 „

Daily average reading of thermometer, 83·5, and of barometer 30 in.

IX.—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

With the development of the natural resources of the Protectorate the difficulty of preventing the exploitation of the native grows. From a variety of causes—education by the missionaries, contact with Europeans, exorbitant prices for goods and passages—the native is beginning to take notice and to ask why the minimum rate of indentured pay remains stationary so long, why he should not refuse to work when so inclined, why he cannot visit Bougainville without a special permit.

The barrier of language is breaking gradually, and indeed many natives when conversing with their fellows from other islands use pidgin English as a medium.

X.—GENERAL.

With labour costing from £20 to £25 a head to recruit, the value of plantations in bearing has reached an average of £40 an acre. The Government charge for taking up unimproved land remains as before. During the year under report about 6,000 acres has been leased, five-sixths of it from the Crown.

The appointment of a Lands Commission has revealed the existence of many disputed claims which will come up for adjustment in due course.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, etc.						Year.
1028	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	..	1918
1029	Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	..	"
1030	Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	"
1031	Leeward Islands	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1032	Sierra Leone	..	..	..	..	..	1918
1033	Bahamas..	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1034	Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	1918
1035	Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1036	Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	1918
1037	St. Vincent	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	..	..	..	..	..	"
1039	St. Helena	..	..	..	..	..	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	..	..	..	..	..	"
1041	Nyasaland	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	..	..	..	..	..	1919
1043	Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	"
1044	Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	"
1045	Basutoland	..	..	..	..	..	1919-1920
1046	Cyprus	..	..	..	..	..	"
1047	Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	..	"
1049	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	"
1050	Gibraltar	..	..	..	..	..	1919-1920
1051	Somaliland	..	..	..	..	..	"
1052	Zanzibar	..	..	..	..	..	1919
1053	Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	"
1054	Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	1918-1919
1055	Malta	..	..	..	..	..	1919-1920
1056	Swaziland	..	..	..	..	..	"
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	1919-1920
1058	Ashanti	..	..	..	..	..	1919
1059	Bahamas	..	..	..	..	..	1919-1920

MISCELLANEOUS.							
No.	Colony, etc.						Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	..	..	..			Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..			Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	..	..	..			Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..			Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..			Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	..	..	..			Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	..	..	..			Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..			Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	..	..	..			Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	..	..	..			Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	..	..	..			Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1148.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1921-22.

(For Report for 1919-20 see No. 1060.
The statistics for 1920-21 have been in-
corporated in the Report for 1921-22.)



LONDON:

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1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; or 23 Forth Street,
Edinburgh.

1923

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1148.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1921-22.*

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The cost of living continues high. A recent Commission of Inquiry found that the decrease in the cost is but three per cent.

The yield of copra showed a slight increase, but the value owing to a fallen market was considerably less than the previous year. A new item of export was timber logs.

Doctor Lambert of the Rockefeller Hookworm Campaign Survey visited the Group during the year and found hookworm-infected natives throughout the islands in large numbers. His report will be awaited with great interest. It is hoped that with treatment there will be an improvement in the health and efficiency of the native population.

The first meeting of the newly established Advisory Council was held during the year and numerous matters were placed before the members for consideration.

Owing to lack of transport accurate returns of the population have not been obtained. District Officers have devoted much time and attention to this purpose during the year, and on some islands a careful record of births and deaths has been made. Most instances show a diminishing birth-rate, the most marked being San Cristoval. Depopulation is attributable to various causes, amongst which is the lack of an adequate medical staff and consequent inability to cope successfully with epidemics of dysentery and influenza.

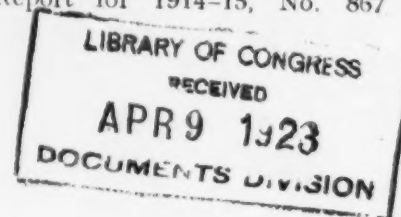
The reclaiming of a 6½ acre swamp in the heart of Tulagi was commenced in April, 1921; of this area the reclamation of some 5 acres was completed during the year and is a considerable and necessary improvement.

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate for the year ended 31st March, 1922, was £56,432 19s. 5d., being an increase of £4,117 17s. 1d. over and above the total for the preceding year.

The total expenditure was £45,450 17s. 7d., being an increase of £3,788 17s. 4d. as compared with the year 1920-21.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 867 [Cd. 7622-58].



The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been as follows :—

			Revenue.			Expenditure.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1917-18	..	..	30,563	19	11	26,120	14	3
1918-19	..	..	29,476	1	1	30,205	5	2
1919-20	..	..	34,544	13	7	37,639	13	5
1920-21	..	..	52,315	2	4	41,662	0	3
1921-22	..	..	56,432	19	5	45,450	17	7

The Native Tax was collected during 1921-22 for the first time.

The Statements of Assets and Liabilities for the years ended 31st March, 1921, and 31st March, 1922, are as follows :—

	Assets.		Liabilities.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash—				
Treasury	1,681 1 2	1,412 14 6	—	—
Bank of New Zealand ..	7,991 9 1	12,588 17 8	—	—
High Commissioner ..	1,645 16 0	7,511 5 1	—	—
Crown Agents ..	278 10 9	325 13 11	—	—
Sydney Agents ..	960 13 9	1,602 0 1	—	—
Remittances ..	2,056 17 11	4,023 3 7	—	—
Deposits ..	—	—	4,985 4 9	4,953 7 1
Advances ..	688 11 9	114 14 11	—	—
Suspense ..	—	—	154 4 0	10 5 2
Imprests ..	20 0 0	37 6 5	—	—
Unallocated Stores ..	1,246 3 4	259 13 0	—	—
Investments—				
Fixed Deposits ..	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—
Crown Agents ..	500 0 0	—	—	—
War Loan Debentures ..	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0	—	—
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	—	—	17,929 15 0	28,911 16 11
	23,069 3 9	33,875 9 2	23,069 3 9	33,875 9 2

III. TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Returns of imports and exports are given as accurately as possible in the following statements :—

Return of Imports, 1920-21 and 1921-22.

					1920-21.	1921-22.
					£	£
Machinery	..	..	..	..	7,278	8,449
Kerosene	..	..	..	..	5,184	4,639
Benzine	..	..	..	..	9,128	12,360
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	23,532	26,407
Spirits ..	..	..	..	..	1,913	3,063
Wine ..	..	..	..	..	999	1,235
Beer ..	..	..	..	..	2,685	3,292
Drapery	..	..	..	..	41,864	29,519
Rice ..	..	..	..	..	36,749	28,177
Sugar ..	..	..	..	..	4,301	3,077
Timber	..	..	..	..	9,923	6,595
Hardware	..	..	..	..	9,391	8,944
Meats ..	..	..	..	..	9,762	9,933
Fish ..	..	..	..	..	10,155	3,677
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	16,612	10,183
Bags and Sacks	..	..	..	..	13,029	6,877
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	122,240	85,137
					<u>324,745</u>	<u>251,564</u>

(For Return of Exports see opposite page).

IV. LEGISLATION.

The most important Regulations passed between 31st March, 1921, and 31st March, 1922, are the King's Regulation to provide for the creation of an Advisory Council in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the King's Regulation to amend the law relating to the recruiting, engagement and employment of native labourers within the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

V. EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Missions. The natives in this respect are very backward.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

The Wireless Station has been doing good work and communication was maintained throughout the year without a break. An attempt was made to maintain communication direct with Suva, but it was found impossible owing to atmospheric conditions at the time the attempt was made (during the North-west Trades' Season).

Internal communication throughout the islands of the Group is confined to the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's steamers, through the Western portion of the islands, to occasional auxiliary vessels belonging to planters and traders, and cannot be said to be satisfactory.

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1917-18 TO 1921-22.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1921-22.

5

	1917-18.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.
Beche de Mer ..	10 tons	4 tons 6 cwt.	—	2½ tons	5 tons
Value..	£947	£381	—	£603	£815
Copra ..	6,943 tons	9,891 tons	8,160 tons	11,127 tons	12,109 tons
Value..	£130,750	£153,395	£194,046	£300,206	£173,916
Black Lip Shell ..	—	—	6 cwt.	6 cwt.	14 cwt.
Value..	—	—	£8	£5	£16
Green Snail Shell..	33 tons	12 tons	12 tons	55 tons	5 tons
Value..	£531	£431	£273	£994	£100
Mother Pearl Shell	7 cwt.	—	7 tons	6½ tons	1 ton 17 cwt.
Value..	£35	—	£482	£449	£167
Trocas Shell ..	219 tons	583½ tons	280 tons	375½ tons	129½ tons
Value..	£4,763	£13,211	£13,638	£22,805	£3,476
Turtle Shell ..	1½ cwt.	5 cwt.	—	6 cwt.	3¼ cwt.
Value..	£142	£101	—	£740	£268
Rubber ..	15 cwt.	—	10 cwt.	7½ cwt.	—
Value..	£174	£25	£125	£85	—
Ivory Nuts ..	151½ tons	163½ tons	259 tons	871 tons	71 tons
Value..	£1,342	£1,762	£3,270	£10,385	£648
Timber Logs ..	—	—	—	—	330,393 sq. ft.
Value..	—	—	—	—	£3,452
Miscellaneous ..	—	—	—	—	—
Value..	—	—	—	—	—
	£4,078	£817	£699	£274	£29
Total Value ..	£142,762	£170,123	£212,541	£336,546	£182,887

The "Southern Cross," owned by the Melanesian Mission, called in the Group once during the year from New Zealand.

Unfortunately the Government vessel "Belama" was wrecked and has not yet been replaced. The need for a vessel is great.

The postal service outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's boat is maintained, in an intermittent fashion, with other parts of the Group through chance auxiliary vessels of traders and planters.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo and Shortlands.

Tulagi is the headquarters of the Protectorate. The District Officers stationed in separate districts throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters.

A money order service exists with the Commonwealth of Australia through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world.

During the year, 201 mails were despatched from Tulagi as follows :—

England 19, Australia 19, Inter-island 163.

R R KANE,

Resident Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.								
No.	Colony, etc.							Year.
1111	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920-1921
1112	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920-1921
1114	Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1115	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920
1116	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1117	Cyprus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1118	Wei-hai-wei	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1119	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920
1120	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1121	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920-1921
1123	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1124	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1125	Zanzibar	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1127	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1128	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1129	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1130	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1131	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921-1922
1132	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921-1922
1134	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1135	Trinidad	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1136	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1137	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1138	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1139	Hongkong	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1140	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1141	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1142	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1143	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
1144	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	1920
1145	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921-1922
1146	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.		Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	...	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	...	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	...	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	...	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	...	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	...	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	...	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	...	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	...	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

306737 L248
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1189.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1922-23.

(For Report for 1921-22 see No. 1148.)



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Edinburgh.

1924

Price 3d. Net.

No. 1189.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1922-23.*

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There is practically no abatement of the high cost of living. A Commission of Inquiry sitting in December showed the decrease to be but $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, as against a decrease of 3 per cent. found by previous Commissions.

The export of copra continues to increase as further areas of coco-nuts come into bearing. There was an increase in the export of trocas shell over the previous year. Some other articles show a slight increase.

The hookworm campaign, inaugurated by Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Hookworm Campaign Survey in 1922, was continued under the Senior Medical Officer, with a travelling assistant, with good results.

A second meeting of the Advisory Council was held in December at which various matters of legislation were discussed.

The transport difficulty was met during the year by the provision of three auxiliary vessels for District Officers and an auxiliary vessel for Police Patrol work. This enables District Officers to visit throughout their districts more frequently and is much appreciated by the general public. No suitable vessel has yet been provided for the Resident Commissioner.

The Protectorate has now its full complement of Medical Officers, and much useful work has been done by visits to various districts by Medical Officers. A Medical Officer is stationed in the Gizo District and is doing useful work amongst natives and Europeans, the former of whom particularly appreciate his services. The system of training native dressers for the treatment of minor ailments amongst the natives in their homes continues to be carried out with good results.

II GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1923, was £56,741 0s. 3d., as against £56,432 19s. 5d. for the previous financial year.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914-15, No. 867 [Cd. 7622-58].

The total expenditure was £52,472 16s. 7d., being an increase of £7,021 19s. 0d. over the previous financial year.

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been as follows:—

			Revenue.			Expenditure.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1918-19	..	..	29,476	1	1	30,205	5	2
1919-20	..	..	34,544	13	7	37,639	13	5
1920-21	..	..	52,315	2	4	41,662	0	3
1921-22	..	..	56,432	19	5	45,450	17	7
1922-23	..	..	56,741	0	3	52,472	16	7

Statements of Assets and Liabilities for the financial years ended 31st March, 1922, and 31st March, 1923:—

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES..

	Assets.		Liabilities.	
	1922.	1923.	1922.	1923.
Cash—	£	£	£	£
In hand and at Bank	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Remittances	23,440 11 3	29,666 12 6	—	—
Deposits	4,023 3 7	3,514 12 4	—	—
Unallocated Stores	—	—	4,953 7 1	6,749 12 0
Advances	259 13 0	389 17 1	—	—
Suspense	114 14 11	218 18 6	—	—
Imprests	—	7 0 7	10 5 2	—
Fixed Deposits	37 6 5	21 1 5	—	—
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	6,000 0 0	6,111 10 2	28,911 16 11	33,180 0 7
	£ 33,875 9 2	39,929 12 7	£ 33,875 9 2	39,929 12 7

III. TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

Returns of imports and exports are given as accurately as possible in the following statements:—

Return of Imports, for 1922-23.

Machinery	£ 5,702
Kerosene	3,292
Benzine	9,959
Tobacco	17,707
Spirits	2,450
Wine	626
Beer	2,581
Drapery	15,861
Rice	20,366
Sugar	2,216
Timber	6,499
Hardware	5,141
Meats	9,588
Fish	2,133
Biscuits	10,481
Bags and Sacks	6,881
Miscellaneous	67,288
	£188,771

(For return of Exports see opposite page.)

IV. LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one King's Regulations came into force during the year, the most important of which were the Native Administration Regulation to provide for Native Administration in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate; the Prison Regulation, to regulate the supervision and discipline of Prisons; the Land Registration (Amendment) Regulation; and the Bills of Sale (Amendment) Regulation.

V. EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Missions. The natives in this respect are very backward.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

The Wireless Station has been doing good work and communication was maintained throughout the year with but slight interruption. The Methodist Mission has erected a wireless telegraph and telephone plant at their station at Roviana Lagoon some 300 miles from Tulagi; this is convenient for communication with the western portion of the Group.

Communication is maintained with Australia by Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company's mail steamers, one vessel calling direct from Australia and, after going through the Group, returning direct to Australia every six weeks; a further vessel passes through

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1918-19 TO 1922-23.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1922-23.

5

	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Beche de Mer ..	4 tons 6 cwt. £381	—	2½ tons £603	5 tons £815	7 tons 16 cwt. £1,340
Copra ..	9,891 tons £153,395	8,160 tons £194,046	11,127 tons £300,206	12,109 tons £173,916	16,711 tons £209,387
Black Lip Shell ..	—	6 cwt. £8	6 cwt. £5	14 cwt. £16	—
Green Snail Shell..	12 tons £431	12 tons £273	55 tons £994	5 tons £100	8 tons £121
Mother Pearl Shell	—	7 tons £482	6½ tons £449	1 ton 17 cwt. £167	—
Trocas Shell ..	583½ tons £13,211	280 tons £13,638	375½ tons £22,805	129½ tons £3,476	526 tons £14,391
Turtle Shell ..	5 cwt. £101	—	6 cwt. £740	3¼ cwt. £268	2 cwt. £115
Rubber ..	—	10 cwt. £125	7½ cwt. £85	—	—
Ivory Nuts ..	£25	259 tons £3,270	871 tons £10,385	71 tons £648	447 tons £3,493
Timber Logs ..	163½ tons £1,762	—	—	330,393 sq. ft. £3,452	448,965 sq. ft. £2,836
Miscellaneous ..	—	—	—	—	—
Value..	£817	£699	£274	£29	£12
Total Value	£170,123	£212,541	£336,546	£182,887	£231,698

the Group from Australia via Rabaul six-weekly. For this service the Protectorate pays £1,800 per annum towards the Australian subsidy, and, in addition, receives certain abatements in the costs of passages and freights.

Internal communication throughout the Islands of the Group is maintained through the regular mail steamers of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Ltd., and by occasional auxiliary vessels belonging to planters and traders and is, as a consequence, somewhat uncertain and irregular.

During the year the Group was visited by the French War Sloop "Aldebaran," H.M.S. "Foxglove," of the China Station, and H.M.A.S. "Brisbane."

The "Southern Cross," owned by the Melanesian Mission, called in the Group once during the year from New Zealand.

The Government vessel "Belama," on which the Resident Commissioner was mainly dependent for inspecting throughout the Group, was wrecked in 1921 and has not since been replaced.

The postal service outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Company's vessels is maintained, in an intermittent fashion, with other parts of the Group, through chance auxiliary vessels of traders and planters.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo and Shortlands.

There is a postmaster and post office at Tulagi, the headquarters of the Protectorate Government. The District Officers stationed in separate districts throughout the Protectorate act as postmasters.

A money order service exists with the Commonwealth of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world.

There is also a postal note service.

During the year, 37 mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi, as follows:—

England	..	..	..	18
Australia	..	..	..	18
Other parts	..	..	..	1

In addition 103 mails were despatched to different parts of the Group.

R. R. KANE,

Resident Commissioner.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

		ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, etc.							Year.	
1154	Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	..	..	1921	
1155	Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922	
1156	Nyasaland	..	..	..	..	..	..	1921	
1157	Falkland Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922	
1158	Wei-hai-wei	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1159	Cyprus	..	..	..	..	..	..	1921 & 1922	
1160	Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922	
1161	New Hebrides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1162	Nyasaland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1163	Zanzibar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1164	St. Helena	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1165	Sierra Leone	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1167	Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1168	Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1169	St. Lucia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1170	Leeward Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1171	Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	..	1921-1922	
1172	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922	
1173	Gibraltar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1174	British Guiana	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1175	Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1176	Basutoland	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922-1923	
1177	St. Vincent	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1179	Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1180	Swaziland	..	..	..	..	..	..	1922	
1181	British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1182	Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1183	Federated Malay States	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1184	Unfederated Malay States	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1185	State of Brunei	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1186	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1187	Falkland Islands	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.					
83	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	..	..	..	..	..	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	..	..	..	..	..	Oil-Seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	..	..	..	..	..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	..	..	..	..	..	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	..	..	..	..	..	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1290.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1924-25.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1189, price 3d. The statistics for 1923-24 have been incorporated in the Report for 1924-25.)



LONDON:

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or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1926.

Price 6d. Net

No. 1290.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

Annual General Report for 1924-25.

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered by Alvaro de Mendana in 1567. A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during 1898 and 1900. The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles, the largest islands being Choiseul, Guadalcanal, Malaita, New Georgia, San Cristoval and Ysabel. (*See Map attached.*)

II —General Observations.

There has been no improvement in the matter of the " High Cost of Living " since 1920, in fact there has been a slight increase.

The output of Copra continues to increase as new areas of cultivation come into bearing. On some of the islands the natives are showing an interest in coconut growing and small areas are being planted by individual natives.

The meeting of the Advisory Council was held in December, 1924, when various matters were placed before the members and discussed.

Early in 1925 the San Cristoval Estates Ltd. shipped their first two shipments of logs from Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group. The logs were landed in excellent condition. Portions of the mill for dealing with the logs at Vanikoro have arrived and the mill is in course of erection. The available Kauri timber at Vanikoro is estimated at over one hundred million superficial feet. There are also quantities of other valuable timbers on the island.

Returns from some Districts show a slight increase of births over deaths in Districts where formerly the deaths exceeded the births. The returns, however, are difficult to obtain with accuracy

owing to the scattered and wild nature of the population. A system of training native dressers at the Tulagi Hospital was inaugurated in 1922 for the training of natives in the treatment of minor ailments, such as sore legs (ulcers), malaria, coughs and colds, which is found to be much appreciated by the natives and has attained a fair measure of success.

Sanitation, as in most native communities, is somewhat primitive. Every endeavour is made by word and example to educate the natives to better methods and more cleanly habits.

The population of the Group, at last census, was :—

Natives (estimated)	..	..	..	150,000
Whites	..	..	..	493
Foreign	..	..	..	90
Total	..	..	..	150,583

Native land may be acquired under King's Regulation No. 3 of 1914, which provides for Leases under three headings: (a) Cultivation; (b) Grazing; and (c) Building. Cultivation Leases are for a term of 99 years, Grazing Leases for 21 years and Building Leases for an indefinite term, but usually not more than 40 years.

A revised Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate was printed in 1923 and may be purchased in the Protectorate.

The Protectorate is divided into eight Districts, each administered by a District Officer, who has a force of Constables under him. Where procurable native clerks are provided for District Officers. Each District is sub-divided into smaller districts with a Headman in charge who has under him village Headmen and village Constables. The District Headmen report to the District Officer births and deaths and any offences in their district and see to the carrying out of the various communal duties necessary in native life.

Mala District.—Headquarters, Auki. This is perhaps the wildest District in the Protectorate and certainly the most populous. Population (estimated) 60,000. It is pleasing to report that crime, which mainly consisted of a maintenance of the old native "club law," has, in recent years very considerably decreased and the natives now respect and accept the Protectorate law in lieu of their old "club law."

Guadalcanal District.—Headquarters, Aola. This large island is not thickly populated, the population being estimated at not more than 30,000. The natives are quiet, and by some planters preferred, as labour, to the Malaita native. Along the coast there are some fairly good roads but the numerous unbridged rivers and creeks render travelling difficult.

Gizo District.—Headquarters, Gizo. Gizo is a Port of Entry and the centre of a small European population, who are engaged in planting coconuts and trading. The native population recent figures show to be under 7,000. There is a small wireless plant, owned by the Methodist Mission, at Kokeqolo some 30 miles from the District Officer's Headquarters at Gizo. The southern portion of the island of Choiseul is also at present in charge of the District Officer, Gizo. There is a native hospital at Gizo.

Shortlands District.—Headquarters, Shortland Island. Shortlands is also a Port of Entry. The District of Shortlands consists of the islands of Shortlands, Fauro, Mono and the northern portion of Choiseul. The population of this District does not exceed 1,500, exclusive of Choiseul. There is a small native hospital on Shortland Island.

Ysabel and Russell District.—Headquarters, Tunnibuli. The population of these islands is 6,000. There are a number of European coconut plantations in the District and the natives themselves have recently commenced planting on their own behalf. On the Island of Ysabel there are some fairly good bridle paths. In the Russell Islands are some of the principal coconut plantations of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Ltd.

Eastern Solomons District.—Headquarters, Kirakira. The Eastern Solomons District consists of San Cristoval, Ugi, and Ulawa islands. Population 7,000. There are a few European coconut plantations on all these islands and on some of the smaller islands not mentioned. The native population is at present stationary after some years of showing a decreasing birth-rate. There are bridle paths throughout the Island of San Cristoval.

Santa Cruz District.—Headquarters, Peu, Vanikoro. This is a new District opened up in 1923 in consequence of the commencement of timber (kauri) cutting on the island of Vanikoro by the San Cristoval Estates Ltd. The native population is some 7,000. The District is comprised of a number of groups of islets and several isolated islands such as Utapua, Vanikoro and Tikopia. The condition of the natives as regards sanitation and general village hygiene was in a very bad state owing to the isolated situation of the District. With the advent of a District Officer, however, there has been a marked improvement.

Tulagi District.—Headquarters, Tulagi. This District comprises the islands of Gela and Savo and is administered by the Officer-in-Command of the Armed Constabulary without Judicial powers. Necessary court cases are taken at Tulagi before the Chief Magistrate.

The District Officers of Mala (Malaita), Gizo, Ysabel and Santa Cruz are each furnished with an auxiliary vessel for the perform-

ance of their duties. The other Districts have whaleboats and, as occasion offers, auxiliary vessels loaned from other Districts. On the whole, the general condition of the natives of these Districts has materially improved in recent years.

III.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1925, was £64,091 6s. 9d., as against £64,329 15s. 8d. for the previous financial year.

The total Expenditure was £65,409 2s. 1d., as against £52,655 12s. 7d. for the previous financial year.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years has been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1920-21	..	52,315	2 4	41,662	0 3	
1921-22	..	56,432	19 5	45,450	17 7	
1922-23	..	56,741	0 3	52,472	16 7	
1923-24	..	64,329	15 8	52,655	12 7	
1924-25	..	64,091	6 9	65,409	2 1	

Statements of Assets and Liabilities for the financial years ended 31st March, 1924, and 31st March, 1925 :—

	Assets.			Liabilities.		
	1923-24.			1923-24.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash :						
In hand at Bank	27,797	15 3	22,401 13 2	—	—	—
Remittances ..	42	12 4	—	—	31 13 4	
Deposits ..	—	—	—	4,033	1 0	4,256 0 6
Unallocated Stores	1,351	14 0	747 2 5	—	—	—
Advances ..	253	11 1	267 4 11	—	—	—
Suspense ...	—	—	—	105	6 1	325 6 5
Imprests ..	46	18 2	333 8 2	—	—	—
Gilbert and Ellice..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Loan ..	4,000	0 0	—	—	—	—
Fixed Deposits ..	15,500	0 0	24,400 0 0	—	—	—
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ..	—	—	—	44,854	3 9	43,536 8 5
£	48,992	10 10	48,149 8 8	48,992	10 10	48,149 8 8

IV.—Trade and Agriculture.

Returns of Imports and Exports are given as accurately as possible in the statements below :—

Return of Imports, 1923-24 and 1924-25.

			1923-24.	1924-25.
			— — —	— — —
			£	£
Machinery	..	..	14,394	12,625
Kerosene	..	..	3,882	4,347
Benzine	..	..	8,180	5,449
Tobacco	..	..	19,951	15,304
Spirits	..	..	3,146	2,857
Wine	..	..	919	950
Dynamite	..	..	166	136
Beer	..	..	2,998	3,457
Rifles	..	..	114	113
Drapery	..	..	20,278	17,902
Rice	..	..	24,606	21,806
Sugar	..	..	2,982	2,967
Timber	..	..	5,225	6,549
Hardware	..	..	6,474	7,016
Meats	..	..	12,005	12,315
Fish	..	..	2,543	2,382
Biscuits	..	..	11,490	10,659
Bags and Sacks	..	..	12,519	15,144
Miscellaneous	..	..	81,967	89,062
			£233,839	£231,040

(For return of Exports see opposite page.)

V.—Legislation.

The King's Regulations passed during the year 1924-25 included Regulations making provision for the registration in the Protectorate of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom, immigration restriction, and the amendment of the Labour Amendment Regulation 1923.

VI.—Education.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Missions.

In January, 1925, returns were asked for from the Missions of the work being done : the following replies were received :—

[Continued on page 8.]

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25.

	1920-21.		1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bêche de Mer	2½ tons	£ 603	5 tons	£ 815	7 tons 16 cwts.	£ 1,340	3½ tons	£ 310	15½ tons	£ 1,596
Copra	11,127 tons	300,206	12,109 tons	173,916	16,711 tons	209,387	18,278 tons	273,563	16,508 tons	287,702
Black Lip Shell ..	6 cwt.	5	14 cwt.	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell ..	55 tons	994	5 tons	100	8 tons	121	1 ton	17	15 tons	216
Mother Pearl Shell ..	6½ tons	449	1 ton 17 cwt.	167	—	—	—	—	¾ ton	88
Trocas Shell	375½ tons	22,805	129½ tons	3,476	526 tons	14,395	205 tons	5,251	334 tons	11,153
Turtle Shell	6 cwt.	740	3½ cwt.	268	2 cwt.	115	3 cwt.	285	2½ cwt.	191
Ivory Nuts	871 tons	10,385	71 tons	648	447 tons	3,493	474 tons	5,371	1,568 tons	23,421
Timber Logs	—	—	330,393 sq. ft.	3,452	448,965 sq. ft.	2,836	324,645 sq. ft.	1,642	283,106 sq. ft.	4,818
Miscellaneous	—	359	29	29	12	12	—	130	—	1,726
Total Value		£336,546		£182,887		£231,698		£286,569		£331,211

Marist (Roman Catholic) Mission.—The total attendance at the Mission schools :—

Girls	..	..	..	..	..	..	282
Boys	..	..	..	..	..	..	444
							—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	726
							—

Principal education given—religious and moral training. In addition, children of 8 or 9 years are admitted and receive instruction in the first rudiments of reading, writing, arithmetic and singing. All the scholars are boarders. The whole of the expense of lodging, feeding, etc., is borne by the Mission.

Methodist Mission :—

Number of schools in charge of European Masters	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of schools in charge of Tongan and Native Teachers	..	..	..	..	..	66
Number of day scholars in attendance, October, 1924	..	..	..	..	..	2,100
Number of European Teachers	..	..	..	..	..	9
Number of non-European Teachers	..	..	..	..	..	98
District High School or Training College	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of students attending High School	..	..	..	..	..	54
Average daily attendance at schools in charge of Europeans	..	..	..	..	..	430
Number of hours tuition per week in schools in charge of Europeans range from Kindergarten : 15 ; to College studies : 35.						
Cost of Educational Department, 1924	..	..	..	..	..	£3,108

Subjects taught: Reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and sewing for girls. The following subjects are taught in addition in Schools in charge of Europeans, special attention being given to English. English: reading, writing and grammar; history, English and European, with particular attention to the Pacific; physical, political and commercial geography; drawing; penmanship; scriptural history; music—vocal and instrumental; and drill. The more advanced students take readings in Greek and Roman history and English literature. All resident students are instructed in the use of tools—boatbuilding, carpentering, agriculture, etc. A number of students are given medical training by trained nurses. Women and girls are taught sewing.

Seventh Day Adventist Mission :—

Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Boys	..	..	..	..	..	..	527
Girls	..	..	..	..	..	..	351

Subjects taught: Instruction in the Bible, English and Native reading, English spelling, English conversation, arithmetic, writing and singing. In addition to the above some of the students have been instructed in typewriting, type-setting and printing, and carpentry.

Melanesian Mission :—

Schools in charge of European Teachers :—

Boys	3
Adults	1
Girls	1
Number of scholars attending above schools	290

Of the five schools, two are elementary, one elementary and industrial, one secondary and one advanced.

Schools in charge of Native Teachers 150

Number of scholars attending above schools 3,000

Subjects taught: Reading, writing, simple arithmetic and religious knowledge.

South Sea Evangelical Mission :—

Schools in charge of European teachers. Co-education 2

Scholars attending 160

Subjects taught: Composition, spelling, arithmetic, singing and religious knowledge, carpentry and building, boat, canoe and cabinet making

Schools in charge of Native Teachers 176

Scholars attending 7,542

Subjects taught: Reading in English and native language and singing.

VII.—Climate.

The climate of the Protectorate is not in itself unhealthy: but the prevalence of mosquito borne diseases demands the taking of all precautions. Malarial fever and dysentery are prevalent, and of late years an increasing number of cases of Black-water fever have been reported.

From April to November the prevailing wind is from the south-east. From November to the end of March calms and heavy north-west weather may be expected. Hurricanes are unknown. The temperature varies from a maximum of 92° to a minimum night temperature of 73°.

VIII.—Communications.

The Wireless Station continues to maintain communication with the outside world, with but slight interruption.

In addition to the private wireless telegraph and telephone erected at Roviana in the western portion of the Protectorate, a similar telegraph and telephone installation has been made by the San Cristoval Estates Ltd., at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group and is in daily communication with Tulagi.

Steamer communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Coy.'s vessels. One steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks, and after going through the Protectorate returns direct to Australia.

Another vessel sails from Australia via Rabaul and enters the western end of the Protectorate at Shortlands, and thence via ports to Tulagi where she clears for Australia: this vessel also sails from Australia every six weeks. Messrs. Burns, Philp & Coy., receive a mail subsidy from the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, to which subsidy the Protectorate contributes an annual sum of £1,800; in return the Protectorate receives certain abatements in the cost of passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs. Burns, Philp & Coy.'s island steamer "Makambo" has been calling from Sydney via Vila, New Hebrides, at Peu, Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the San Cristoval Estates timber industry.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasional auxiliary vessels belonging to traders and planters and by H.M.C.S. "Ranadi."

During the year the Protectorate was visited by the following vessels: "Vinstra," 3,000 tons; "Southern Cross," 400 tons; H.M.A.S. "Marguerite"; H.M.A.S. "Brisbane"; "Yarra," 3,000 tons; and the "Trelissick," 3,000 tons.

The Postal service, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp & Coy.'s vessels, is maintained in an intermittent fashion with other parts of the Protectorate through chance auxiliary vessels.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Shortlands and Vanikoro.

There is a Postmaster and Post Office at Tulagi, the headquarters of the Protectorate Government. District Officers stationed in the various districts throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters.

A Money Order service exists with the Commonwealth of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a Postal Note service.

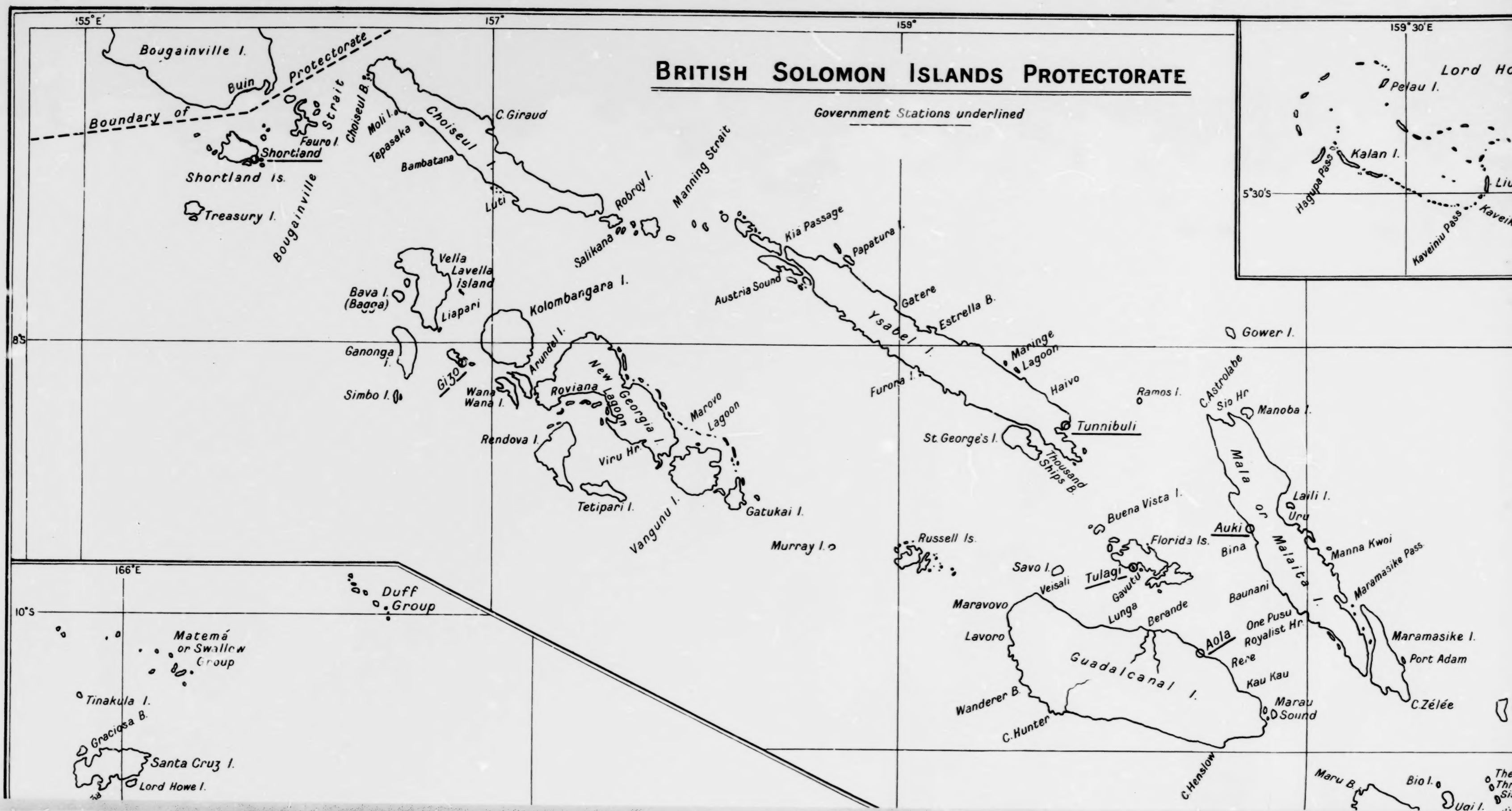
During the year 52 mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi.

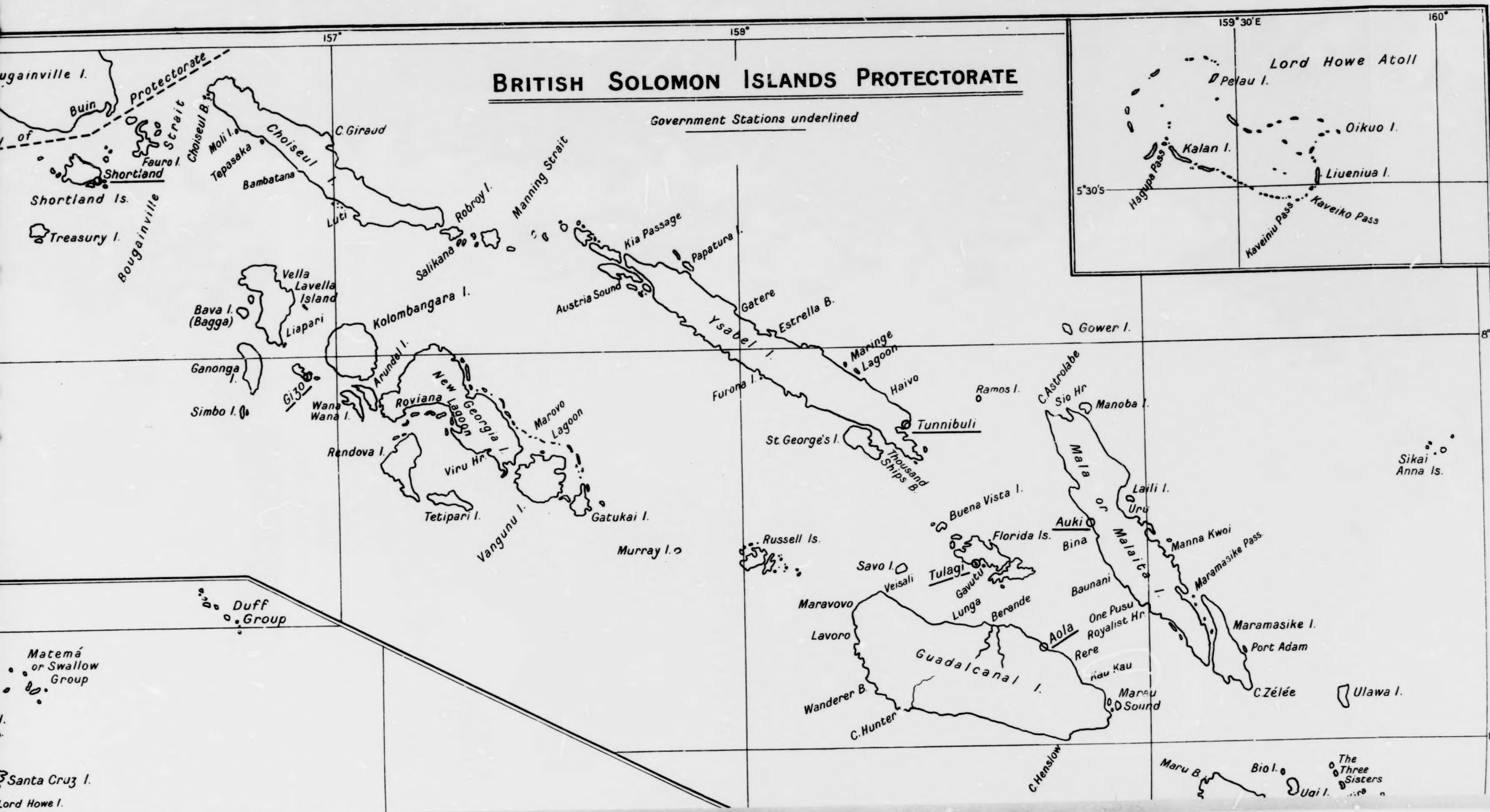
Maps on this order too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed clockwise beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method.

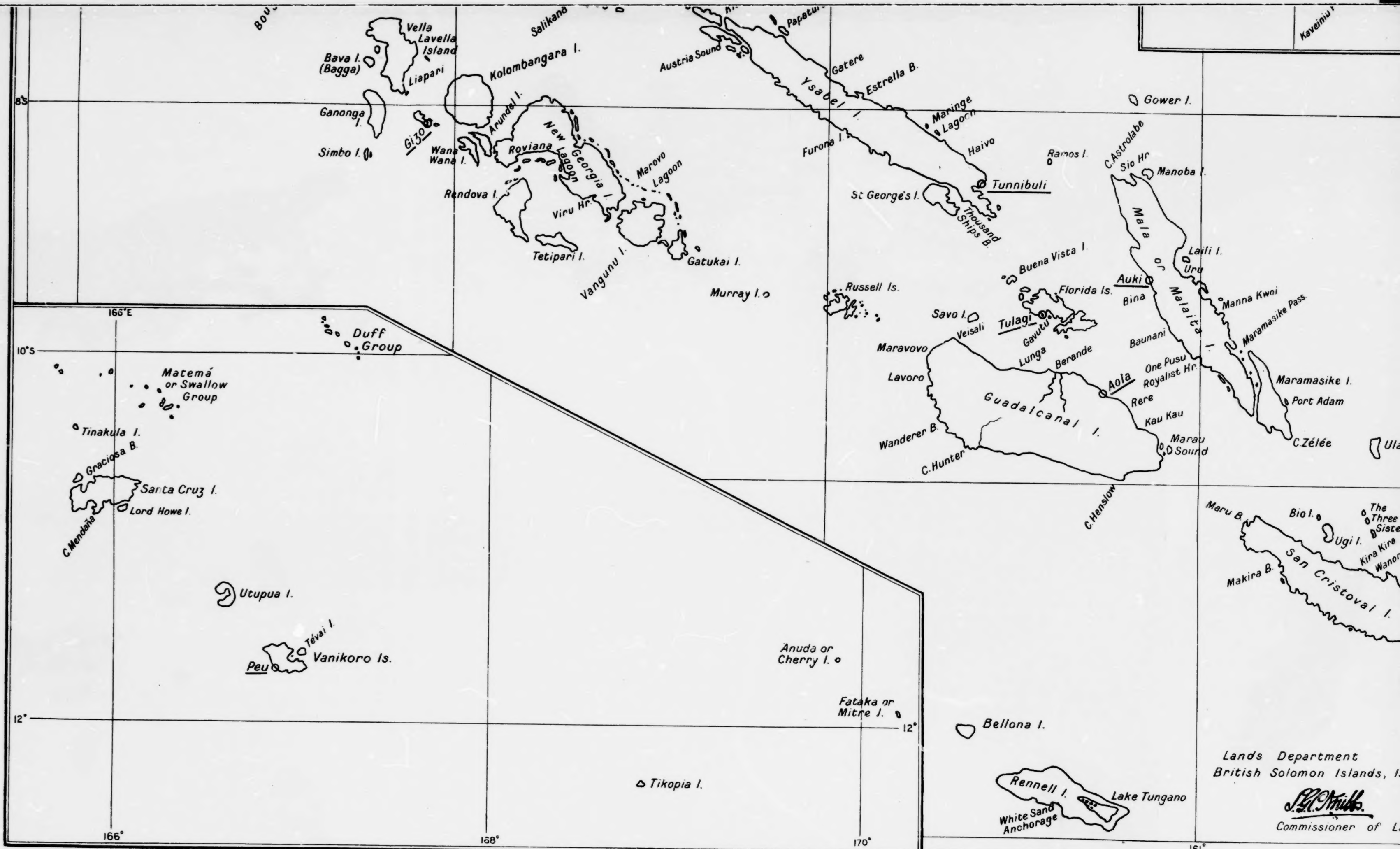
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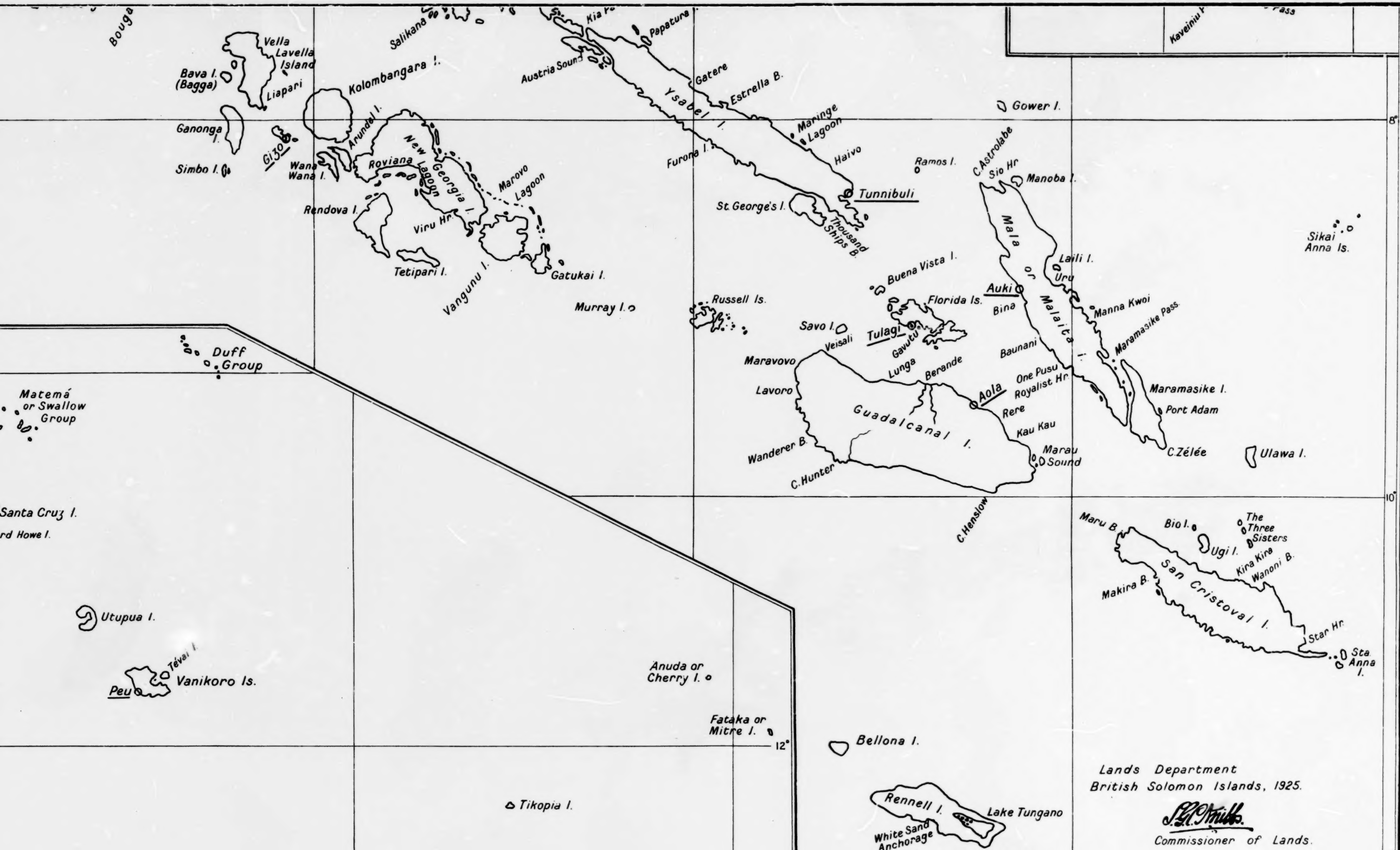
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Lands Department
British Solomon Islands, 1925.

J. H. Mills

Commissioner of Lands.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1331.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1925-26.

(For Report for 1922-23 see No. 1189, price 3d. The statistics for 1923-24 have been incorporated in the Report for 1924-25, No. 1290, price 6d.)



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1927.

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No. 1331.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

Annual General Report for 1925-26.

I.—Geographical and Historical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new Colony proved abortive and the settlement shortlived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the Colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonisation and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some 200 years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans, but from 1767, when Captain Cartaret rediscovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually, missionaries established themselves and Mission Societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in 1845, and, five years later, the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came, and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

II.—General Observations.

A visit to the Protectorate was paid in September, 1925, by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, who spent several days in Tulagi. Meetings were held with the members of the Advisory Council and a representative gathering of the residents. His Excellency also inspected all Government Offices and public institutions at Tulagi. Prior to his departure from the Group His Excellency visited Aola, Head-quarters of the District of Guadalcanal; Kirakira, Head-quarters of the Eastern Solomons District, and Auki, Head-quarters of the District of Mala.

The principal articles of export were in good demand at satisfactory prices during the year, with the exception of ivory nuts, for which the European market suddenly collapsed owing, it is understood, to a glut of supplies of this and equivalent products from other parts of the world.

On the 25th January, the Roman Catholic Mission Church at Visale, on the Island of Guadalcanal, was destroyed by an earthquake, lasting between forty and fifty seconds. The shock was felt through the central islands of the Group and was accompanied in some localities by a tidal wave.

Of recent years much has been done to improve conditions both among Europeans and natives. The Public Health Regulation of 1918 has had beneficial results and has resulted in populated areas being more closely supervised by the Administration. Considerable headway has been made, in recent years, in draining and reclaiming low-lying swamps in Tulagi and eradicating many stagnant and mosquito-breeding pools. Sanitation has also progressed by the building of proper latrines for natives, including the police and prisoners, and the establishment of incinerators for the destruction of empty tins and refuse. It is gratifying to record that considerable success has been achieved in the campaign against mosquitoes at Head-quarters during the past five years by a gradual diminution of stagnant water and the disposal of empty tins, husks of coconuts, and other nurseries for larvae.

The figures at the 1921 census show 493 whites (386 males and 107 females) and, as nearly as can be estimated, 150,000 natives. There are also approximately 90 aliens in the group who are not included in the above figures.

Native land may be acquired under King's Regulation No. III of 1914, which provides for leases under three headings (a) Cultivation leases, (b) Grazing leases and (c) Building leases.

A revised Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate was printed in 1923 and may be purchased in the Protectorate.

The Protectorate is divided into eight Districts, each administered by a District Officer, who has a force of Constables under him. Where procurable, native clerks are provided for District Officers. Each district is sub-divided into smaller districts with a Headman in charge, who has under him village Headmen and village Constables. The District Headmen report to the District Officer all births and deaths and any offences in their district and see to the carrying out of the various communal duties necessary to native life.

Mala District.—Head-quarters at Auki. This is perhaps the wildest District in the Protectorate, and certainly the most populous. The population of Malaita is estimated at 60,000. It is pleasing to report that crime, which mainly consisted of a maintenance of the old native "club law," has, in recent years, very considerably decreased and the natives now respect and accept the Protectorate law in lieu of their old "club law."

Guadalcanal District.—Head-quarters at Aola. This large Island is not thickly populated. The population is estimated at not more than 30,000. The natives are quiet and, by some planters, preferred, as labourers, to the Malaita man. Along the coast there are some fairly good roads, but the numerous unbridged rivers and creeks render travelling difficult.

Gizo District.—Head-quarters at Gizo. Gizo is one of the Ports of Entry in the Protectorate and is the centre of a small European population, who are engaged in planting coconuts and in trading. Recent figures show the native population to be under 7,000. There is a wireless station at Kokegelo owned by the Methodist Mission Society, and a native hospital at Gizo itself. The southern portion of the Island of Choiseul is administered at present by the District Officer, Gizo, who also has under his charge the Island of Lord Howe.

Shortlands District.—Head-quarters at Faisi, Shortlands Island. This District consists of the Islands of Shortland, Fauro, Mono, and the northern part of Choiseul. There is a small native hospital on Shortland Island. Faisi is a Port of Entry. The population, exclusive of Choiseul, does not exceed 1,500.

Ysabel and Russell Islands District.—The head-quarters of the District are at Tunnibuli. The population of these islands is 6,000. There are a number of European coconut plantations in the District and the natives have themselves commenced to plant. On the Island of Ysabel there are some moderately good bridle paths. In the Russell Islands are some of the principal coconut plantations of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited.

Eastern Solomons District.—The Head-quarters of the District are at Kirakira. The Eastern Solomons District consists of San Cristoval, Ugi, and Ulawa Islands, and the population is 7,000. There are a few European-owned coconut plantations on these

islands and on some smaller ones. The native population is at present stationary after some years of showing a decreasing birth-rate.

Santa Cruz District.—The Head-quarters are at Peu on the Island of Vanikoro. This is a new District, opened in 1923 in consequence of the commencement of kauri timber-cutting on the Island of Vanikoro by the San Cristoval Estates, Limited. This Company has, since 1923, changed hands and management and is now known as the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The District consists of a number of groups of islets and several isolated islands such as Utupua, Vanikoro and Tikopia. The condition of the natives as regards sanitation and general village hygiene was in a very bad and primitive state owing to the isolated situation of the District, but, with the advent of a District Officer, there has been a marked improvement. The population is estimated at 7,000.

Tulagi District.—In addition to the Island of Tulagi (including Makambo and Gavutu) the District consists of the Islands of Ngela (Florida) and Savo. The Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary acts as District Officer, with his head-quarters at Tulagi. He has no judicial powers. All necessary court cases are taken by the Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser.

The District Officers, Mala, Gizo and Ysabel are supplied with auxiliary vessels. Other Districts have whale-boats and auxiliary vessels on loan from neighbouring Districts or from the Labour Department. On the whole, the condition of the natives has improved in a marked degree within recent years.

III.—Government Finance.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1926, was £71,430 5s. 3d., as against £64,091 6s. 9d. for the previous financial year.

The total Expenditure was £60,330 3s. 3d., as against £65,409 2s. 1d. for the previous year.

The Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1921-22	..	56,432	19 5	45,450	17 7	
1922-23	..	56,741	0 3	52,472	16 7	
1923-24	..	64,329	15 8	52,655	12 7	
1924-25	..	64,091	6 9	65,409	2 1	
1925-26	..	71,430	5 3	60,330	3 3	

Statements of Assets and Liabilities for the financial years ended 31st March, 1925, and 31st March, 1926 :—

	<i>Assets.</i>		<i>Liabilities.</i>	
	1924-25.	1925-26.	1924-25.	1925-26.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash :				
In hand at Bank	22,401 13 2	31,740 13 0	—	—
Remittances ..	—	1,909 4 2	31 13 4	—
Deposits ..	—	—	4,256 0 6	3,658 13 0
Unallocated Stores	747 2 5	1,154 9 9	—	—
Advances ..	267 4 11	166 16 1	—	—
Suspense ..	—	—	325 6 5	475 19 7
Imprests ..	333 8 2	—	—	—
Fixed Deposits ..	24,400 0 0	25,200 0 0	—	—
Vessels Insurance Fund ..	—	—	—	1,400 0 0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ..	—	—	43,536 8 5	54,636 10 5
	£ 48,149 8 8	60,171 3 0	48,149 8 8	60,171 3 0

IV.—Trade and Agriculture.

Returns of Imports and Exports are given as accurately as possible in the statements below :—

Return of Imports for 1925-26.

	£
Machinery	11,100
Kerosene	5,209
Benzine	6,947
Tobacco	17,371
Spirits	2,758
Wine	817
Explosives	118
Beer	3,496
Rifles	308
Drapery	19,239
Rice	26,952
Sugar	2,804
Timber	9,286
Hardware	5,777
Meats	13,939
Fish	3,023
Biscuits	12,564
Bags and Sacks	16,625
Miscellaneous	108,935
	<u>£267,268</u>

(For return of Exports *see* opposite page.)

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1921-22 TO 1925-26.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1925-26.

7

	1921-22.		1922-23.		1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bêche de Mer ..	5 tons	£ 815	7 tons 16 cwt.	£ 1,340	3½ tons	£ 310	15½ tons	£ 1,896	16 tons	£ 2,727
Copra ..	12,109 tons	173,916	16,711 tons	209,387	18,278 tons	273,563	16,508 tons	287,702	19,206 tons	369,283
Black Lip Shell ..	14 cwt.	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell ..	5 tons	100	8 tons	121	1 ton	17	15 tons	216	33 tons	619
Mother Pearl Shell ..	1 ton 17 cwt.	167	—	—	—	—	¾ ton	88	—	—
Trocas Shell ..	129½ tons	3,476	526 tons	14,395	205 tons	5,251	334 tons	11,153	377 tons	21,245
Turtle Shell ..	3½ cwt.	268	2 cwt.	115	3 cwt.	285	2½ cwt.	191	1½ cwt.	198
Ivory Nuts ..	71 tons	648	447 tons	3,493	474 tons	5,371	1,568 tons	23,421	1,380 tons	16,144
Timber Logs ..	330,393 sq. ft.	3,452	448,965 sq. ft.	2,836	324,645 sq. ft.	1,642	283,106 sq. ft.	4,819	526,876 sq. ft.	7,961
Miscellaneous ..	—	29	—	12	—	130	—	1,726	—	1,341
Total Value ..		£182,887		£231,699		£286,569		£331,211		£418,818

V.—Legislation.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Regulation applies to the Protectorate the provisions of the Imperial Act (14 and 15 George V Chapter 22). Two other King's Regulations, or local interest only, were also passed during the period under review.

VI.—Education.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission Societies.

For the financial year 1926-27 the sum of £300 has been included in the Estimates of Expenditure for technical educational grants to Mission schools. Reports have been asked for from the various Mission bodies, setting out particulars of the technical education which is imparted to the students, and from the three replies which have, so far, been received it would appear that efforts are being made by the Missions to encourage technical education among natives.

The Melanesian Mission report that students are taught :—

- (1) Native work : inlaid work decorations with nautilus shell.
- (2) European work : carpentry. The articles made are almost entirely church and school furniture, also boxes of different varieties for clothing or of the tool-chest type.

The Marist Mission report that technical education is not officially part of the school curriculum, but, as the Mission must depend on their students to aid them in their different industries—such as boat-building, concrete work and printing—the natives necessarily acquire a certain knowledge of what they assist in. It may be of interest to note in passing that the Roman Catholic Fathers have constructed a concrete bridge at Visale and have built a slip for repairing their vessels. A temporary church has also been put up since the original one was destroyed recently by the earthquake. Moreover, all engineering and repair work required on their launches and auxiliary vessels is done locally on the Mission Stations. Students under the care of the Catholic Mission, therefore, are bound to acquire an appreciable amount of technical education.

The South Sea Evangelical Mission report that a few of their students are instructed in carpentry, typewriting and book-binding. Attempts are also made to instruct them in canoe and boat building, but, so far, not much headway has been made in this direction.

VII.—Climate.

The climate of the Solomons is not in itself unhealthy, but malaria and blackwater fever are prevalent. Dysentery and pulmonary diseases also exist, but are confined chiefly to the natives.

From April to November the prevailing wind is from the south-east. From November to the end of March calms and heavy north-west weather may be expected. Hurricanes are unknown. The temperature varies from a maximum of 92° to a minimum night temperature of 73°.

VIII.—Communications.

The Government Wireless Station maintains communication with the outside world. In addition, there are two privately-owned wireless installations in the group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo District, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The last two named stations are powerful enough to communicate independently with the outside world, but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulagi.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's mail steamers. One steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks, and, after going through the group, returns to Australia. Another vessel sails from Australia via Rabaul and enters the western end of the Protectorate at the port of Faisi in the District of Shortlands, and thence travels to Tulagi via ports and clears for Australia. Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company receive a subsidy from the Australian Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £1,800. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in the cost of Government passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's steamer "Makambo" has been calling from Sydney, via Vila in the New Hebrides, at Peu, Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the Timber Company who are operating there. In addition, direct oversea shipments of copra were made in one British cargo vessel of 3,229 tons and four Norwegian vessels of a total tonnage of 12,312 tons.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. H.M.C.S. "Ranadi" is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. "Malanta," belonging to Burns, Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, and the motor vessel "Duranbah," owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Company, Limited.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Shortlands and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster at Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A Money Order Service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a Postal Note Service.

During the year ended 31st March, 1926, 21 mails were despatched oversea from Tulagi, 33,835 letters were dealt with, 305 parcels and 1,053 registered articles.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the subscription price of 40s. per annum.

ASHANTI, 1924-25, No. 1289	1s. 9d.	JAMAICA, 1925, No. 1327.. ..	1s.
BAHAMAS, 1925, No. 1285	6d.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1321	1s.
BARBADOS, 1925-26, No. 1301	9d.	LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1925-26, No. 1323	1s.
BASUTOLAND, 1925, No. 1294	9d.	MAURITIUS, 1925, No. 1332	9d.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE, 1925-26, No. 1317	1s.	NORTHERN RHODESIA, No. 1292 ..	1s.
BERMUDA, 1925, No. 1309	9d.	NEW HEBRIDES, 1924, No. 1273 ..	6d.
BRITISH GUIANA, 1925, No. 1300 ..	1s.	NIGERIA, 1925, No. 1315	1s.
BRITISH HONDURAS, 1925, No. 1308.	1s.	NYASALAND, 1925, No. 1296	6d.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO- TECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1290 ..	6d.	ST. HELENA, 1925, No. 1297	6d.
BRUNEI, STATE OF, 1925, No. 1293..	1s. 3d.	ST. LUCIA, 1925, No. 1326	6d.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA), 1925, No. 1298	3d.	ST. VINCENT, 1925, No. 1303	6d.
CEYLON, 1925, No. 1243	5s.	SEYCHELLES, 1925, No. 1329	3d.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1926, No. 1225	1s. 3d.	SIERRA LEONE, 1925, No. 1320 ..	1s.
CYPRUS, 1925, No. 1313	1s. 9d.	SOMALILAND, 1925, No. 1316	6d.
FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1322.	6d.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1925, No. 1302.. ..	2s.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES, 1925, No. 1305	2s.	SWAZILAND, 1925, No. 1307	6d.
FIJI, 1925, No. 1299	1s.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1924-25, No. 1237.. ..	3d.
GAMBIA, 1925, No. 1306	9d.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, 1925, No. 1311.	1s. 6d.
GIBRALTAR, 1925, No. 1314	6d.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS, 1925, No. 1304.. ..	6d.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS, 1923-24, No. 1246	6d.	UGANDA, 1925, No. 1318.. ..	6d.
GOLD COAST, 1924-25, No. 1287 ..	2s. 3d.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION, 1925, No. 1319	6s. 3d.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRI- TORIES, 1925-26, No. 1328	1s.	WEI-HAI-WEI, 1925, No. 1295	6d.
GRENADA, 1925, No. 1310	6d.	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE, 1925, No. 1312	6d.
HUNG KONG, 1925, No. 1324	1s. 6d.		

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Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

CAMEROONS, 1925 (Colonial, No. 22)	4s. 6d.
IRAQ, 1925 (Colonial, No. 21)	6s.
PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN, 1925 (Colonial, No. 20) ..	5s. 6d.
TANGANYIKA, 1925 (Colonial, No. 18)	3s. 3d.
LABOUR IN TANGANYIKA TERRITORY, 1925 (Colonial No. 19)	4s.
TOGOLAND, 1925 (Colonial, No. 23)	4s.

PALESTINE, REPORT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF, 1920-25 (Colonial, No. 15)	2s.
COLONIAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, 1924-1925 (Colonial No. 24)	9d.

All prices are net.

Postage extra.

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CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS.

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ASHANTI.	HONG KONG.
BAHAMAS.	JAMAICA.
BARBADOS.	KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
BASUTOLAND.	LEEWARD ISLANDS.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.	MAURITIUS.
BERMUDA.	NEW HEBRIDES.
BRITISH GUIANA.	NIGERIA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.	NORTHERN RHODESIA.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.	NYASALAND.
BRUNEL STATE OF.	ST. HELENA.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).	ST. LUCIA.
CEYLON.	ST. VINCENT.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.	SEYCHELLES.
CYPRUS.	SIERRA LEONE.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.	SOMALILAND.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
Fiji.	SWAZILAND.
GAMBIA.	TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
GIBRALTAR.	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.	UGANDA.
GOLD COAST, NORTHERN TERRITORIES.	UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION.
GRENADE.	WEI-HAI-WEI.
	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

MANDATED TERRITORIES.

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

BRITISH CAMEROONS.	PALESTINE AND TRANSJORDAN.
IRAG.	TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.
	BRITISH TOGO LAND.

For further particulars as to the latest reports and prices apply to any of the

SALE OFFICES OF H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.

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Philip and Company's steamer "Makambo" has been calling from Sydney, via Vila in the New Hebrides, at Port Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the Timber Company who are operating there. In addition, direct overseas shipments of copra were made in five Norwegian vessels of a total tonnage of 16,898 tons.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. H.M.C.S. "Ranadi" is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. "Malaita," belonging to Burns, Philip (South Sea) Company, Limited, and the motor vessel "Durandah," owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Company, Limited.

In November, 1926, the Protectorate was visited by a Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee in connection with investigations regarding shipping services between Australia and the Pacific territories.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itineraries of Messrs. Burns, Philip and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruits.

The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Shortlands, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster at Tulagi and the District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A Money Order Service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a Postal Note Service.

During the year ended 31st March, 1927, 18 mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi. The following are statistics of postal matter handled during the year under review:—

Despatched.	Received.	Value.	...	...	...
29,056	44,748	8,084	...	...	Prepaid letters
—	—	34	...	...	Unpaid letters
1,855	45,674	—	...	...	Printed and commercial papers, samples, etc.
400	244	300	...	...	Admitted free
31,311	90,666	8,418	...	...	Totals
1,009	2,376	117	...	...	Registered articles
176	2,350	5	...	...	Ordinary parcels

V.—Education.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission Societies.

For the financial year under review the sum of £300 was included in the Estimates of Expenditure for technical educational grants to Mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education:—

£	
25	Methodist Mission (Roviana)
50	Seventh Day Adventist Mission (Marovo Lagoon)
25	South Sea Evangelical Mission (Suva)
25	Melanesian Mission (Marovo)

Educational statistics furnished by the various Mission Societies for the year under review show no change in the statements published in the Annual Report for the year 1924-25.

VI.—Climate.

The climate of the Solomons is not in itself unhealthy, but malaria and blackwater fever are prevalent. Dysentery and pulmonary diseases also exist but are confined chiefly to the natives.

From April to November the prevailing wind is from the south-east. From November to the end of March calms and heavy north-west weather may be expected. Hurricanes are unknown. The temperature varies from a maximum of 92° to a minimum night temperature of 73°.

VII.—Communications.

The Government Wireless Station maintains communication with the outside world. In addition, there are two privately-owned wireless installations in the Group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo District, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The last two named stations are powerful enough to communicate independently with the outside world, but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulaagi.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company's mail steamers. The steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks, and, after going through the Group, returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company receive a subsidy from the Australian Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in the cost of Government passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs. Burns,

Total value ...	£531,000	£580,000	£331,511	£418,812	£491,004
Miscellaneous ...	—	130	—	—	—
Timber logs ...	448,000 ad. ft.	351,040 ad. ft.	383,100 ad. ft.	350,850 ad. ft.	418,001 ad. ft.
Log cut	3,403	454 tons	1,008 tons	1,380 tons	833 tons
Timber shell	8 cwt.	3 cwt.	34 cwt.	14 cwt.	3 cwt.
Trunks shell	14,300	500 tons	334 tons	355 tons	500 tons
Mother Pearl shell	—	—	1 ton	—	—
Green Snail shell	8 tons	1 ton	12 tons	33 tons	55 tons
Black Rib shell ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cobles ...	10,511 tons	18,556 tons	10,903 tons	10,500 tons	55,310 tons
Bêche de Mer ...	7 tons 10 cwt.	31 tons	124 tons	10 tons	504 tons
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£1,340 $\frac{7}{8}$	£310 $\frac{7}{8}$	£1,800 $\frac{7}{8}$	£5,755 $\frac{7}{8}$	£7,215 $\frac{7}{8}$
	1,340	310	1,800	5,755	7,215
	1855-56.	1853-54.	1854-55.	1855-56.	1856-57.

LETTER OF INTENT, 1955-56 TO 1959-60

IV.—Trade and Agriculture.

Returns of Imports and Exports are given as accurately as possible in the statements below:—

RETURN OF IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1956-57.

£						
17,057	...	...	...	...	...	Machinery
6,308	...	...	...	...	...	Kerosene
8,414	...	...	...	...	...	Benzine
20,121	...	...	...	...	...	Tobacco
3,135	...	...	...	...	...	Spirits
1,135	...	...	...	...	...	Wine ...
105	...	...	...	...	...	Explosives
4,287	...	...	...	...	...	Beer ...
174	...	...	...	...	...	Rifles ...
21,104	...	...	...	...	...	Drapery
28,808	...	...	...	...	...	Rice ...
3,555	...	...	...	...	...	Sugar ...
10,040	...	...	...	...	...	Timber
7,433	...	...	...	...	...	Hardware
14,817	...	...	...	...	...	Meats
3,501	...	...	...	...	...	Fish ...
14,460	...	...	...	...	...	Biscuits
17,797	...	...	...	...	...	Bags and sacks
114,911	...	...	...	...	...	Miscellaneous
£206,755	...	...	Total	...	...	

Tulagi District.—In addition to the island of Tulagi (including Makambo and Gavutu) the District consists of the islands of Ngela (Florida) and Savo. Ngela has a population of some 2,500 and Savo a population of some 200. The Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary acts as District Officer, with headquarters at Tulagi. He has no judicial powers. All necessary court cases are taken by the Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser. Two natives from Ngela and two from Savo are being trained for service as native medical dressers.

The District Officers, Mala, Gizo, Yasabel, Guadalcanal, Santa Cruz, and Eastern Solomons are supplied with auxiliary vessels. On the whole, the condition of the natives has improved in a marked degree within recent years.

III.—Government Finance.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1927, was £77,444 12s. 0d., as against £71,430 2s. 3d., for the previous financial year.

The total expenditure was £63,740 12s. 0d., as against £60,330 3s. 3d., for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1925-26	77,444	12 0	63,740	12 0
1924-25	71,430	2 3	60,330	3 3
1923-24	64,091	6 9	62,409	2 1
1922-23	64,329	12 8	52,652	12 7
1921-22	56,741	0 3	52,472	16 7

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1926, AND 31st MARCH, 1927.

Assets.	1925-26.		1926-27.		Liabilities.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cash in hand at bank ...	31,740	13 0	36,632	8 4	—	—
Remittances ...	1,909	4 2	3,652	16 9	—	—
Deposits ...	—	—	—	—	3,652	0 3
Unallocated Stores ...	1,124	9 3	1,027	7 2	—	—
Advances ...	166	16 1	168	18 8	—	—
Subsistence ...	—	—	—	—	475	12 7
Fixed Deposits ...	25,200	0 0	33,063	0 0	—	—
Vessels Insurance Fund	—	—	—	—	1,400	0 0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	—	—	—	—	24,636	10 2
	260,171	3 0	274,574	10 11	260,171	3 0
					274,574	10 11

of a small European population who are engaged in planting coconuts and in trading. Recent figures show the native population to be under 7,000. There is a wireless station at Kokegelo, owned by the Methodist Mission Society, and a native hospital at Gizo itself. The southern portion of the island of Choiseul is administered at present by the District Officer, Gizo, who also has under his charge the island of Lord Howe. Two natives of Roviana were attached to the staff of the District Officer as clerks in training. Both made satisfactory progress, and one was subsequently appointed as a Native Clerk to a District Officer in another part of the Protectorate.

Shortland Islands District.—Headquarters at Faisi, Shortland Island. This District consists of the islands of Shortland, Fanning, Mono, and the northern part of Choiseul. There is a small native hospital on Shortland Island. Faisi is a port of entry. The population, exclusive of Choiseul, does not exceed 1,500. Onua Island has been acquired by the Government for use as a quarantine station.

Yasbel and Russell Islands District.—The headquarters of the District are at Tannibuli. The population of these islands is 6,000. There are a number of European coconut plantations in the District and the natives have themselves commenced to plant. On the island of Yasbel there are some moderately good bridges. In the Russell Islands are some of the principal coconut plantations of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited.

Eastern Solomons District.—The headquarters of the District are at Kiri-Kiri. The Eastern Solomons District consists of San Cristoval, Ugi, and Ulawa islands, and the estimated population is 8,000. There are a few European-owned coconut plantations on these islands and on some smaller ones. The native population shows a slight decrease on the previous year.

Santa Cruz District.—The headquarters are at Fern, on the island of Vanikoro, which is a port of entry. This District was opened in 1923 in consequence of the commencement of kauri-timber cutting on the island of Vanikoro by the San Cristoval Estates, Limited. This Company has, since 1923, changed hands and management, and is now known as the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company, Limited. The District consists of a number of groups of islets and several isolated islands such as Ulubua, Vanikoro, and Tikopia. The condition of the natives as regards sanitation and general village hygiene was in a very bad and primitive state owing to the isolated situation of the District but, with the advent of a District Officer, there has been a marked improvement. A hospital was erected at the beginning of the year. The population is estimated at 7,000.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

II.—General Observations.

The figures at the 1921 census show 493 whites (326 males and 107 females) and, as nearly as can be estimated, 150,000 natives. There are also approximately 150 aliens in the Group who are not included in the above figures.

Native land may be acquired under King's Regulation No. III of 1914, which provides for leases under three headings (a) Cultivation leases, (b) Grazing leases, and (c) Building leases.

A revised Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate was printed in 1923, and may be purchased in the Protectorate.

On the 3rd November, 1926, a seaplane belonging to the Royal Australian Air Force landed in Gizo Harbour, this being the first aerial craft of any description to visit these waters.

The Protectorate is divided into eight districts, each administered by a District Officer, who has a force of constables under him. Where procurable, native clerks are provided for District Officers. Each district is sub-divided into smaller districts with a Headman in charge, who has under him village Headmen and village constables. The District Headmen report to the District Officer all births and deaths and any offences in their district and see to the carrying out of the various communal duties necessary to native life.

Malak District.—Headquarters at Auki. This is perhaps the wildest District in the Protectorate, and certainly the most populous. The population of Malak is estimated at 60,000. Crime very considerably decreased and the natives now respect and accept the Protectorate law in lieu of their old "club law."

The erection of a native hospital at Sui was completed in December, 1926.

Guadalcanal District.—Headquarters at Aola. This large island is not thickly populated. The population is estimated to be about 20,000. The natives are quiet and, by some planters, preferred, as labourers, to the Malak man. Along the coast there are some fairly good roads, but the numerous unbridged rivers and creeks render travelling difficult.

Gizo District.—Headquarters at Gizo. Gizo was, at one time, one of the ports of entry in the Protectorate, but it ceased to be so under Proclamation No. 2 of 6th August, 1926. Gizo is the centre

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1990-91

CONTENTS

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NOTE.—A sketch map of the Protectorate will be found in the Report for 1924-25.

I.—Geographical and Historical Notes.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved abortive and the settlement shrivelled for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the Colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, but an end to any prospect of colonisation, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some 200 years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans, but from 1767, when Captain Carteret rediscovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast-line of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually missionaries established themselves and Mission Societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in 1845, and five years later the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came, and between the years 1860 and 1895 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during 1898 and 1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1370.

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1926—27.

(For Reports for 1924-25 and 1925-26 see Nos. 1350 and 1351,
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1928.

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28-0-0-17.

During the year under review eighteen mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi. The following are statistics of postal matter handled.

Ordinary parcels ...	Registered articles	Totals ...	Admitted free	Printed and commercial papers, samples, etc.	Unpaid letters ...	Prepaid letters ...
5	117	8,418	300	—	34	8,084
2,330	2,376	90,666	244	45,674	—	44,748
176	1,009	31,311	400	1,855	—	29,056

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there are two privately-owned wireless stations in the group—one at Kokogele (Roviana) in the Gizo district, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. These two stations are sufficiently powerful to communicate with the outer world but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulagi.

A telephone system exists in Tulagi connecting up the various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, is by virtue of his office a Judicial Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the superior Courts in England. The Deputy Commissioners have civil jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a criminal jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years' penal servitude or upwards.

With some exceptions all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order the High Commissioner has certain special powers for the deportation of persons whose proceedings endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

The total exports have increased as follows:—

Bêche de Mer	...	...	...	10½ tons valued at £4,785
Copra	...	...	...	3,092 " " £42,314

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks and, after proceeding through the group, returns to Australia. Messrs Burns Philp receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes the annual sum of £3,000. In return the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights. Since February, 1925, Messrs Burns Philp and Company's steamer "Makambo" has been calling at Vanikoro, Santa Cruz, in connection with the Timber Company who are operating there. This service has, however, been temporarily discontinued. In addition, direct overseas shipments of copra are made in Norwegian and Swedish steamers.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways or good roads. There are coral paths in Tulagi, and in most of the districts paths and tracks, varying in quality, link up villages and plantations. Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by traders and planters. The Government vessel "Ranadi" is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. "Malanta", owned by Messrs Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited; the s.s. "Koonooka", owned by Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited; and the motor vessel "Durandah", owned by Messrs W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Islands), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The State of Trade.

The value of imports has increased by £29,651, and the value of exports by £34,517. The value of imports is not expected to increase materially in the near future. The value of copra exported should increase yearly for the next five years, when the maximum output should be reached owing to the cessation of development due to lack of labour.

Character and nature of trade.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the total imports. The only regular steamship line trading with the Protectorate sails from ports in the Commonwealth. Trade with the United Kingdom increased during the period under review by £6,908 and the increase in respect of other parts of the Empire was £14,706. There would appear to be little prospect of any considerable increase in imports of British goods unless a preferential tariff were brought into force. Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia and there is practically no competition by local retailers. A list of the principal imports, together with the country of their origin, follows:—

Commodity.	Imports.	Country of origin.
Kerosene	75,396 gallons	United States
Benzene	208	Borneo
Tobacco	78,987	United States
Beer	12,810 lbs. Avoir.	Australia
	585	United Kingdom
	111,513	United States
	19,396 gallons	Australia
	220	United Kingdom
	52,122	Australia
	52,489	China
Drapery	210,909	United Kingdom
	21,110	United States
Rice ...	686 tons	Burma
	106	China
	178	India
Timber	330,313 super feet	Australia
	50,002	New Zealand
	106,781	United States
Hardware ...	23,459	Australia
	23,161	United Kingdom
	2629	United States
	356,285 lbs.	Australia
Meats	116,687	New Zealand
	163	United Kingdom
	308	United States
Bags and sacks	35,949 dozen	India

Expenditure.

The total expenditure was £63,740 12s. as against £60,330 3s. 3d. for the previous year. The revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1923-1923	56,741	0 3	52,472	16 7
1923-1924	61,329	12 8	52,622	12 7
1924-1925	61,091	6 9	62,409	2 1
1925-1926	71,430	2 3	60,330	3 3
1926-1927	77,444	19 0	63,740	12 0

There have been no changes in the method of raising revenue and the rates of taxation have not been altered. There is no loan.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

With the exception of the copra industry there is no "agriculture" in the Solomon Islands.

Fisheries.

Bêche-de-mer, trocas and turtle shell are worked to a small extent. It cannot be claimed that the above-mentioned industries show any tendency towards increased production.

Forestry.

There is no "forestry" in the accepted sense in the Solomon Islands although various kinds of softwoods are worked and some have been shipped to Australia. There are no indications, however, that this export industry will be marked with any degree of success. At Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz group, the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company (Proprietary) Limited, are engaged in the exploitation of kauri pine. The neighbouring Island of Tavea, rich in kauri, is a Government reserve.

Mining.

King's Regulation No. VII of 1927, relating to prospecting for and mining metals and other minerals, was passed during the year under review. Up to date two miners' rights have been granted.

Exports.

A table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given below.

Currency.

Imperial and Australian sterling coins are the sole legal metallic currency. Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those of Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

In February, 1937, three native constables of Armed Constabulary and one other native were murdered by bush natives on the Island of Guadalcanal. The perpetrators of the outrage were arrested in due course and suffered the extreme penalty of the law.

In October, 1937, Mr. W. R. Bell, District Officer of Malaita, Mr. Cadet Lillies and thirteen native employees of the Government were murdered at Kwai'sambo, Sinarango, Malaita. The ring-leaders of this outrage and their followers were arrested and are being dealt with by law.

During the year under review the membership of the Advisory Council was increased by two official members and one non-official member.

In medical matters activities have increased considerably during the year. In Tulagi the hospital has been enlarged to permit of more patients being accommodated. A Travelling Medical Officer, equipped with an auxiliary vessel, has been appointed and visits and treats natives in localities hitherto inaccessible.

In co-operation with the Rockefeller Foundation an energetic campaign against yaws has been planned and work will be commenced on the Island of Malaita at the beginning of 1938.

Schemes are under consideration whereby the Medical Officers of the Melanesian and Methodist Missions will work in co-operation with the Medical Department and closer touch with the native population will result.

A Medical School for the training of Native Medical Practitioners has been opened in Suva, Fiji, and natives of the Protectorate are eligible for admission as students to this school with a view to their eventually working among the natives in the Solomon Islands.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1937, was £77,414 19s. 3d. as against £71,430 5s. 3d. for the previous financial year.

* Note.—The Report of the Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to inquire into the circumstances in which these murderous attacks took place has been presented to Parliament as Cmd. 3248. (January, 1938.)

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1927.

PREFACE.

Historical and Geographical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved abortive and the settlement short-lived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonization and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some two hundred years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans but from 1767, when Captain Carteret rediscovered the Santa Cruz group and the north-west coast-line of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually, missionaries established themselves and mission societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in the year 1845, and five years later the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in the year 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during the years 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

Language.

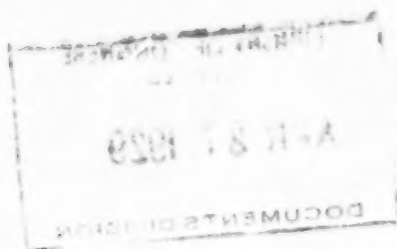
There is no universal native language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are very few parts of the Protectorate, however, where pidgin English is not spoken and understood by the natives.

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[illegible]

Aphidius

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1929.

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The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary and Superintendent of Prisons. He is assisted by a European Sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of a Sergeant-Major and 119 other ranks, and there are 11 native warders attached to the Gaol.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of other than local interest were undertaken during the year under review.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered an average one from a health point of view.

Europeans.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat. Malaria is prevalent and practically all residents suffer from attacks from time to time. Blackwater fever is not uncommon. Of nine deaths which occurred during the year two were due to malaria and two to blackwater fever. A number of cases of dengue also occurred during the year and dysentery is not uncommon.

Asiatics.

The health of the Chinese population was good. Two deaths only occurred, one being caused by pulmonary tuberculosis and the other by homicide. Four children were born during the year.

Natives.

There were two outbreaks of measles among the native population and the disease is still present. Great fear was felt at first as to the possible severity of the disease among the natives but the disease has proved mild and of minor importance. There is practically no mortality. An outbreak of varicella occurred in the Gizo district, with no mortality.

Apart from these epidemics no outstanding disease occurred. Yaws is practically a universal disease among the native population, infection usually taking place in childhood. Malaria is also everywhere and causes deaths among children and adults. Dysentery is endemic but there has been no serious epidemic for years. Of skin diseases, various types of ringworm are common. Tuberculosis is not uncommon and is one of the greatest causes of death, the disease usually running a very acute course in the native.

Of venereal diseases, gonorrhoea is comparatively infrequent and syphilis has not been recorded among the native population.

General.

Sanitation work in Tulagi has been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Officer, efforts being mainly directed towards mosquito control. Government hospitals at Tulagi, Gizo, Su'u and Vanikoro have supplied free treatment to the native population. In those districts not provided with a Medical Officer, medicines are issued to missions and to reputable planters for distribution among the natives. The work of some of these persons cannot be too highly praised and a number of them are capable of giving injections for yaws. To these people are supplied Neo-arsphenamine as they require it, and the confidence in European medicine, resulting from its dramatic effects on yaws, is extremely valuable.

The Travelling Medical Officer, equipped with a vessel, visits various parts of the group treating natives.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission bodies. For the financial year under review the sum of £300 was included in the estimates of expenditure for technical grants to Mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

Melanesian Mission	...	...	...	...	...	£
South Sea Evangelical Mission	...	...	...	...	...	25
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	...	...	...	...	...	25
Methodist Mission	...	...	...	...	...	50
						50

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Lands and Survey Department came into being in the year 1913 with the appointment of the present Commissioner of Lands and Crown Surveyor. A Government Surveyor was appointed to assist him in the year 1919 and still holds the post. Provision has been made for the appointment of a second surveyor, but it has been found very difficult to obtain the services of a suitable man. Several have been appointed but in every instance have resigned after a few months' work.

The only survey work performed in the Protectorate to date has been isolated surveys of alienated blocks. Where these blocks are in reasonably close proximity they are linked up by coastal traverse. Since 1921 the Lands Department has concentrated on

surveys in connection with the work of the Lands Commission, but a number of surveys are still outstanding. Owing to shortage of staff it was found impossible to perform any land survey work during the year under review.

Geological Survey.

During the year under review two geological surveys took place in the Protectorate. An expedition, under the generous auspices of the Colonial Research Committee, with a geologist supplied by the University of Sydney, visited Rennell Island for the purpose of investigating the possibility of phosphate deposits in that locality.

Another expedition was organized at Protectorate Government expense, the investigating officer being a member of the previous expedition. The islands of Owa Raha (Santa Anna) and Owa Riki (Santa Catalina), both in the Eastern Solomons District, were investigated.

The Reports on these reconnaissances are printed as appendices to this Report.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour strength, about one unit to ten acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of sixteen years, or as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of fourteen years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. per mensem and 10s. per mensem for labourers and light labourers, respectively.

For the most part labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and repatriation to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependants, the employer is under a similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the Native Labour Department and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike. The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform

are controlled and a system of "task work" is in vogue, $5\frac{1}{2}$ tasks completing one week's work. On time work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours per diem and on task work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

The average number of labourers employed throughout the group is approximately 6,000, distributed among 227 employers.

R. R. KANE,

*Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.*

31st December, 1927.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT ON THE GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF RENNELL ISLAND, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

*(By G. A. V. Stanley, B.Sc., Department of Geography,
University of Sydney.)*

INTRODUCTION.

Interim Report.

Already an interim report has been prepared and presented to the Administration of the British Solomon Islands. In the present report the facts are now set forth in greater detail. But in addition there is included a good deal of matter which is not primarily concerned with the main object of the expedition, but which was gathered during the course of the work and which is of some administrative and general interest.

Objects of the expedition.

With regard to the main objects of the survey, namely, the investigation of the possibility of phosphate deposits being discovered at Rennell Island, there is little to add to the interim report. Analysis of two samples of limestone selected from the specimens brought back confirmed the indications of the field tests that the percentage of phosphate material is very much too low to be of the slightest commercial importance. The analyses were made in the Department of Chemistry, and the Rennell Island specimens are now stored in boxes in the Department of Geology, University of Sydney.

Personnel.

The party, consisting of G. A. V. Stanley, B.Sc. (Geologist-in-Charge, University of Sydney), N. Wilson (Wireless Operator and Field Assistant), E. Dudley-Davis (Sub-Inspector of Police), and H. W. Hogbin, B.A. (Anthropologist, University of Sydney), arrived at Rennell Island in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on the 8th August, 1927, accompanied by

His Honour the Resident Commissioner (Captain R. R. Kane). Other details of the expedition, such as the number of police attached to it, the servants, the quantities of provisions, etc., have, I understand, been reported upon by Mr. Davis, and fall beyond the scope of the present report.

The base camp.

A base camp was established at Kunggava (*see* Maps A-D*). This is almost the only feasible site for a base, for it is from here that the main "roads" lead to the interior of the Tenggano and Kunava districts, which appear to be the most populous and important areas of the island. Here a ship anchored at the point shown on Map A obtains the greatest amount of shelter from the south-eastward, while the broken character of the fringing reef affords numerous passages suitable for small boats. An expedition may be disembarked here quickly and without difficulty. For any party visiting the island for any length of time a base on the coast is essential. Situated as Kunggava is, at the centre of the southern coastline, it is probable that even the extremities of the island are less than a week's march overland from it. A tank being a vital necessity to any party a large base cannot be made inland. The system which was adopted by us, of making excursions into the interior for a week or so at a time, returning at the end of the period to the base to rest and write up notes of the results, has much to recommend it. All the evidence points to the complete suitability of Kunggava as the site of a main station or base.

Schedule of the field work.

Field work was commenced on the 15th August by making an examination of, and mapping, the "roads" in the vicinity of the base camp.

On the 27th August the island was crossed by Mr. Wilson and myself along the road shown on Map A, leading through the garden marked Goboga.

From the 3rd to the 9th September a visit was made to Munggainggau, in the division of Sa'atupa, Tenggano district. During this visit the southern coastline between the east point of Kunggava Bay and Onenggaguga was examined and mapped, and part of the shoreline of the lake was explored. (*See* Map A.)

On returning to the base camp an attack of diarrhoea forced me to remain in camp for a week.

During the last week of August and the first two weeks of September the local natives suffered from an influenza epidemic. During much of this period we could get no help from them. There were none able to act as guides or carriers, and, as our presence was apparently the cause of the trouble, we were looked at askance. This epidemic was a very considerable hindrance to the work of both Mr. Hogbin and myself.

The north-western half of the island (Kunava district) was visited twice between the 21st September and the 3rd October. Following the roads indicated on Map A, the district was penetrated as far as Munggaiika, the far north-west end of the island not being reached.

The end of the expedition came about three weeks too soon. From the 6th to the 8th October heavy rain prevented field work. During this period Mr. Hogbin and myself made elaborate arrangements to visit the far south-east end of the island (Kunggivi). This area appears to possess some sacred character, for it was only after considerable bargaining and

* Not reproduced.

promising to take presents with us to place on a certain grave there, that we were able to engage carriers, and canoes on the lake. I had decided to ask for the party to be taken off in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on our return from this trip. On the 9th October a radio was sent to Tulagi to this effect. In answer to this radio we received news of the recall of the expedition, owing to the native troubles in Malaita. On the evening of the 10th October the party left Kunggava in H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi."

It is thus clear that large areas of the island are yet unexplored. On the Map (Map A) the areas which were visited are shown in some detail. Most of the "roads" are approximate only, but the relative distances along them between the principal gardens are fairly reliable.

PREVIOUS LITERATURE.

The information available before our visit to Rennell Island is both scanty and scattered, and in some cases is difficult of access (in Sydney).

It would appear that among the earliest visitors to the island were Bishops Selwyn and Patterson (1856), who recognised the Polynesian affinities of the natives. There is no doubt that the island was visited many times in the early days by traders, recruiters, adventurers and others who have left no record of their visit. For example, there is a reference by C. M. Woodford* to the visit of the captain of a sailing vessel of whom he made some enquiries about the island.

Other recorded visits are C. M. Woodford, 1906; A. G. Stephen, 1906; Dr. Northcote Deck and J. Hedley Abbott (several visits), 1908-11.

Published accounts of the visits of Woodford† and Deck‡ have appeared in the *Geographical Journal*, and the essential facts of the latter's account have been reprinted in Stewart's Handbook.§ In the same publication is an account of a visit to the near-by island of Bellona, reprinted from the *New Zealand Herald* on 8th July, 1921, which appeared under the *nom de plume* of Haerrere.||

The very latest reference to Rennell appears in the book by C. H. Dickenson: "A Trader in the Savage Solomons." A few notes on the island, based on hearsay, are given. They are of no value.

At the present day Rennell Island is certainly one of the least known of the Pacific Islands. Yet to the geologist and the anthropologist it is undoubtedly one of the most interesting.

THE NATIVES.

It is not within the scope of the present report to give a full account of the inhabitants of Rennell Island. Furthermore, it would be an infringement upon the rights of Mr. Hogbin, who as Anthropologist spent all his time making a special study of the locals, and who will eventually publish a very full account of his results. At the same time it is desirable that a brief summary of their salient characteristics and habits should be included here for the information of the Administration, as well as for that of any party who may contemplate a visit to the island in the future.

* C. M. Woodford: "A Naturalist among the Headhunters," 1890, p. 234.

† C. M. Woodford: "On some little-known Polynesian Settlements in the Neighbourhood of the Solomon Islands." *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 1, 1916, pp. 45-9.

‡ Dr. Northcote Deck: "Rennell Island," *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. LVII, No. 6, 1921, pp. 474-6.

§ P. S. Allen: "Stewart's Handbook of the Pacific Islands," 1923, p. 185.

|| Haerrere: "Article on Bellona," Stewart's Handbook, 1923, pp. 186-8.

The locals are quite distinct in ethnic type from the inhabitants of nearly all the other Solomon Islands. They are quite evidently somewhat mixed, but are predominantly Polynesian. They constitute one of the several isolated Polynesian "colonies" in Melanesia (c.f., Ontong Java, Sikaiana, and the Loyalty Islands).

Origin.

The original home of these folks is unknown. Native tradition places it at Uvea. This may possibly refer to Uvea (Wallis Id.) near Samoa; more probably Uvea is a common Polynesian place-name, and hence this tradition may have little more significance than merely confirming the evidence of appearance and speech as to a Polynesian origin. The earliest members of the group almost certainly drifted to the island. Genealogies indicate that they have been there some 17 generations (400 years).

Their curious environment calls for many curious adaptations. They are relatively few in number, being estimated by me to be at least 700, and are far enough away from the other islands to be exempt from raids and head-hunting. Being poor workers, having practically no coconuts and hence no copra, they have been given up as a bad job by recruiters and traders alike. They are still almost quite untouched by white influence.

Physical Characters.

The colour of the skin is light brown. The average cephalic index* (based on 113 measurements) is 74.84. In general the stature is less than that of the average Englishman, but some of the men reach 6 feet 2 inches. The hair is wavy. It is not so stiff as the usual Melanesian hair, yet it is not typically Polynesian.

Speech.

A Polynesian dialect is spoken. Mr. Hogbin collected about 500 words. There appears to be a close relationship to Samoan, with, however, certain definite letter changes. The numerals are as follows: *tasi*, *ngua*, *tonggu*, *ha*, *nggima*, *onu*, *hitu*, *vanguu*, *ira*, *katoa*. Here the Samoan "l" becomes the Rennell "ngg"; and the "f" becomes "h." The native name for Rennell is Munggava; for Bellona Munggiki.

Religion.

It is very important that any party visiting the island should be particularly careful not to infringe the numerous *tapus*. It is possible that the murders of the native teachers† left at Rennell by Dr. Deck were due to the infringement of a *tapu* connected with the cutting of hair.

There seems to be no priestly man—nor magicians or sorcerers. Each fully initiated man is able to speak, through the dead in the grave, to a higher being whose very name is *tapu*, and must not be uttered. The name of this "Master-an-tapu" (as he is called in pidgin) is possibly *Te-hainggi-atua*. *Atua* is the usual Polynesian word. There are special houses belonging to this being. They are distinguished from ordinary houses (and resemble grave houses) in having curved rafters. In front is a cleared space where ceremonies are held. Inside are canoe paddles which are used by the dead when they work in the canoe belonging to the "Master." There are no images. The shark appears to be sacred. The shark's tails which hang in the houses, and the big wooden shark-hooks are all *tapu*, and must not be handled.

* The cephalic index is a number, found by expressing the greatest breadth of the skull as a percentage of the greatest length.

† Deck: *Ibid.* p. 476.

The most extraordinary object connected with the sacred things is the *te-haka-sani-sani*. This is a long spear-like object carved out of a single piece of wood, and having "barbs" on each side varying from 10 to 17 in number. These were observed by Woodford, and also by Deck, who each expressed the opinion that they were thrusting spears—used as a halberd or partizan for thrusting and backward pulling. This is not the case. Mr. Hogbin and I have discovered them to be ceremonial sticks of a rather sacred character, which are kept in the houses and are brought out only during the concluding stages of a prolonged ceremony. It is thought by us that each fully initiated man possesses one of these sticks. They are hard to obtain.

Weapons.

Stone axes and adzes were formerly used, but they were probably never very numerous owing to the absence of any quantity of stone suitable for making them. Light, bone-tipped spears, and bone-tipped arrows are carried about. It seems that the use of the bow and arrow has become lost (atrophied). There are various forms of sticks which could possibly serve as clubs. It seems that there is little or no internal fighting. There is little cause of dissension for there is ample room on the island for all, and food is fairly abundant and is easily obtained. The isolated nature of the settlements tends to support the view that there is generally peace over all the island.

Although a strong body of police was attached to the party, no difficulties with the locals were experienced at any time. All precautions were taken to guard against surprise. It is my opinion that any party visiting the island for any length of time should be strongly armed.

Occupations.

Large areas of the island are entirely uninhabited. (*See the Map**). It appears that the locals divide the island into four Districts (*see Map B**), viz., Munggihenua, Kunava, Lugu and Tenggano. Of these, the first is still entirely unexplored; it is thought to be thickly populated. The Kunava District is very populous. Lugu, except for the shoreline of Kunggava Bay, is almost entirely uninhabited. Tenggano is thickly populated, the bulk of the people living around the margin of the lake.

Agriculture and fishing are the chief occupations of this curiously distributed population. There are no villages. Each grown man owns one or two gardens, where he eventually builds a house and lives with his family. The houses are rectangular in shape, and have sloping roofs which reach to within 18 inches of the ground on all sides. They are not raised above the earth. It is not feasible for Europeans to use these houses except very temporarily. It is advisable for any party travelling inland on Rennell to provide tents for *all* members of the party, as at most of the gardens there is literally no accommodation to be had for police or servants. Coconuts are few and are sacred. Paw-paws, yams, panna, bananas, taro, betel-nut, etc., are grown. Yams and taro were bought by us in small quantities at the rate of six baskets for a 12-inch knife.

From the point of view of a native the Rennellese are abjectly poor. There are no pigs, poultry or dogs. Hence they are practically vegetarians. There is no copra, or pearl shell.

* Not reproduced.

Navigation and Science.

Many men and women are able to draw very good sketch maps of the island as a whole, or of any small part of it.* Such information is of great value as a basis on which to plan the exploration of the island. It gives an idea of what is likely to be encountered. The day's march may be planned to ensure camping at a garden where it is known that there are houses large enough to shelter the police, servants and carriers, and where it is certain that yams and coconuts are to be obtained.

Canoes are hollowed out of logs and have out-riggers. On the lake they are provided with platforms on which to sit, and a few have hand-woven mat sails.

Social organisation.

This important subject is beyond the scope of the present report. Sister avoidance is very strong, and must sometimes be taken into account when selecting local carriers. The system of inheritance of property and power is not fully understood.

Work and payment.

During the course of the survey it became necessary to use the locals as carriers, guides, etc. The young men were willing to work for the following rates of pay:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ day's work	...	...	...	...	2 fish hooks.
1 day's work	...	...	...	...	5 fish hooks.
4 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 lava lava, or a copra knife.
7 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 12-inch knife.
14 days' work	...	...	...	...	1 large axe.

It was found to be very desirable that at least one woman should be attached to a party. In addition to being a strong and willing carrier, the woman can undertake to cook the presents of yams and panna which are sure to be made to the white man. It is impossible to ask a local man to do this, as for him to do it is *tapu*. In order to pay these women it is essential to have a supply of knives, mirrors, and large red beads.

It was found to be unnecessary to provide rations for the local members of the party. Though they will eat rice and biscuits, and at times express a strong desire for tinned meat, they prefer their own diet of paw-paws, yams and taro. Thus it is desirable to exercise a little care, and camp only at gardens where these are certain to be obtainable.

VEGETATION.

Like nearly all the islands in these latitudes, Rennell is buried for the most part beneath a dense jungle vegetation or rain forest, which is a direct response to the warmth, copious rainfall and general humidity. At the same time there are considerable areas of the interior on which there is no tall growth, the surface barely being concealed beneath a soft creeping vine. These areas may be crossed without much difficulty, and from them a view can often be obtained of the surrounding landscape, which is very useful when surveying is being carried on. One of the worst difficulties of the surveyor in the jungle is the inability to see any distance.

ANIMALS.

Land animals are scarce. Perhaps the commonest are the monitor lizards (so-called iguanas). The giant coconut crab is frequently seen in the jungle, far from the coconut groves. In the lake are water snakes. It

* G. A. V. Stanley: "Rennell Island. Primitive Map-Makers." Sydney *Morning Herald*, 3rd December, 1927, p. 13.

is not known if these are poisonous. Land snakes, if any are present, are very rare. Flying foxes are common and are much prized by the locals, both as food and for the sake of their teeth, which are made into strings. Large grey pigeons and small doves are fairly abundant and form a welcome change to tinned meats. On the lake are numerous ducks. These are not eaten by the locals, and in consequence are not at all shy. At night they came ashore among the tents when I was camped at Munggainggau on the shores of the lake, and were easily knocked down with sticks. White ibis are very common. I understand that these birds are not found elsewhere in the Solomon Islands.

PHYSIOGRAPHY.

General.

Rennell Island is probably the finest example in the world of a raised atoll. As such it is of very considerable geological interest, and would form one of the finest places to be visited by a purely scientific expedition having as its object the investigation of the vexed question of the origin of oceanic atolls. Formerly a great annular, sea-level coral reef enclosing a central lagoon, it has after elevation preserved its general outline. It is composed entirely of limestone.

At present it has the form of a long narrow dish—the interior is depressed and is surrounded by a rim, the outer side of which forms the steep-to coastline

Maps.

An accurate survey has not been made of the whole island, but the log of H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" indicated that the southern coastline (Tuahenua, Map B*) is about 50 miles in length, and that Kunggava Bay is situated approximately in the middle of it. It is probable that the width of the island varies considerably. It was crossed by me only at one spot, namely, along the road shown on Map A,* leading from Kunggava Base Camp through Goboga. Here the width is about five miles. The trend of the northern coastline (Banggikanggo) there, and also native information, seems to indicate that this is the narrowest part, and that both to the north-west and the south-east the width increases.

Two maps of the island have already appeared in the *Geographical Journal*, and are reproduced on the sheet accompanying this report. (See Maps C-D*). Dr. Deck (Map C*) has not indicated on what grounds he bases his northern coastline. It is interesting to compare the place-names on these two maps with the names found by us.

In general then, Rennell Island may be said to be 50 miles long, with a width varying between 6 and 12 miles. The long axis trends in the direction of the trade wind, i.e., S.E.-N.W.

The Coastline.

A running survey has been made of the coastline from the extreme south-east point of the island (Matahenua) to the east point of Kunggava Bay. This was carried out by Captain R. Crookshank and myself from H.M.C.Y. "Ranadi" on the afternoon of the 8th August, 1927. Subsequently, a more detailed survey of the shores of Kunggava Bay was made from a boat by Mr. Wilson and myself. The southern coastline between East Point and Onenggagua was mapped by myself during a canoe journey between these two points.

* Not reproduced.

From a distance the island is remarkable for its low uniform profile. Closer up the shoreline is steep-to, and along much of its length is protected by a narrow barrier reef on which the surf breaks violently. This barrier reef is remarkable for the narrowness of its lagoon. It is nevertheless a true barrier and not a fringing reef. Along such sections of the coast it would be impossible to land from a boat, and it is only the protection which is afforded by this barrier reef which makes canoeing possible. The reef, however, passes in places from a barrier into a true fringing reef. This is so around the shores of Kunggava Bay, where the reef bares only at the lowest tides, and where there are numerous winding, coral-free channels which afford passages suitable for boats and canoes.

Behind the reefs the shoreline consists for the most part of blueish grey and white limestone cliffs. Occasionally there are white sand beaches. In many cases these are occupied by small gardens consisting of a few paw-paws and coconuts, and perhaps a couple of temporary shelter huts. Permanent settlement appears to be almost confined to the interior. Only around the shores of Kunggava Bay are there permanent settlements on the coast. Fishing parties and groups of people travelling along the coastline in canoes make use of the temporary shelters and depend for food on what they can catch, or else on gardens a little distance inland to which special excursions have to be made. For this reason any surveying party travelling along the coastline by canoe must provide rations for the local guides and carriers, in order to avoid the exasperating delays incurred in getting food inland, since along the coast no supplies of native food can be counted upon.

Behind the immediate shoreline the land rises steeply. Native "roads" leading to the interior are numerous, but need to be pointed out by a guide. They all appear to be equally rough, and the climbing is arduous. As a rule they lead to a relatively low gap in the atoll rim, so that though the average height of the rim is 400-500 feet, the interior may be gained through a col of only a couple of hundred feet, in some cases. Again, the ascent as a rule is not uniformly steep. The tectonic history of Rennell has not been simple, and in places on the outer side of the main rim there are still relics of an elevated barrier reef behind which is an elevated lagoon. In climbing the rim, then, the first steep ascent is over the old barrier reef; then follows a level space representing the lagoon; and then comes a longer and steeper climb up the main mass of the rim.

The Rim.

In general, once the summit is reached a more gentle descent is commenced into the great central depression. The top of the rim is not level. There are low gaps and higher peaks. In many places it is extremely narrow, being only a few feet wide, knife-edged and jagged. Elsewhere it is much broader. Exposed as it is to the full force of the weather, it is everywhere much fissured. The sharp limestone pinnacles of the rim are quite the most difficult part of the island to traverse.

At several points on the rim clearings were made from which an uninterrupted view could be obtained over the whole island, and on which tall marks were erected to serve as reference points for the survey.

The interior depression.

Having crossed the outer rim the central depression is reached. This represents the one-time lagoon of the ancient atoll. As a whole the island has been tilted so that the south-east end of this depression is occupied by an extensive, brackish lake. This lake is not, as Dr. Deck surmised, at

sea-level. Nor is it relatively so large as his map indicates. Its surface is about 70 feet above the sea. Neither Mr. Hogbin nor myself observed the diurnal tide of a few inches which is described by Deck.*

Again, the name of the lake is not Tungano, as shown on Dr. Deck's map (Map C†). The name of the whole lake district is Tenggano (*see* Map B†).

Communications.

In traversing the island during the course of the survey communication was either by canoe along the shoreline, or on the lake, or by native "roads" through the jungle from garden to garden.

Canoe.

It was found essential to buy two large canoes. For each of these we paid one axe. When about to set out in them we could select our crews from among the carriers. It should be noted that the middle seat of the canoe is *tapu* and must not be sat upon. The canoes of the coast will take three to five men, and a small amount of luggage. They are slow—the average speed being about two miles per hour. They are both poled and paddled.

On the lake the canoes are somewhat larger, and have a light decking on which the occupants sit. In canoeing on the lake a great disability is the persistent trade wind. This sweeps over the lake day after day and lashes up a nasty choppy sea, in which the clumsy canoes have to be constantly bailed. Against the wind paddling is very hard and the progress is exasperatingly slow. To reach Kunggivi from Vainggau is considered to take three days. With the wind the speed is much greater, and if the canoe has mat sails, or (more commonly) has a leafy branch lashed upright in it, there is little more work called for than to guide it. In this way the journey from Kunggivi back to Vainggau might take one day.

Overland.

Communication overland along the native "roads" can only be described as tedious and fatiguing. The track is narrow and winds interminably through the jungle, now level, now rising steeply, now falling. The surface is very broken, the limestone having all the characters of karst weathering—gaping fissures and jagged pinnacles. The body is continually tensed to maintain a balance. Where the path is more level or where it has been beaten smooth, a stiff red clay—or *terra rossa*—derived from the weathering of the impure limestone, lies inches deep, and with rain changes to a sticky mud. This red earth was mistaken by Woodford and Deck for soil of volcanic origin. As in all jungle areas thorny vines hang across the path and have to be cut away. The dense vegetation prevents a view being obtained for more than a few yards. Under such conditions, and in such humid atmosphere, a good average marching pace is two miles per hour. When doing geology it is, of course, a good deal less. It is nearly impossible to do any geology away from the "road," for in addition to a way having to be cut, the surface off the "beaten" track is frightful.

The Tenggano (Lake) District.

This is the south-eastern and perhaps most populous and important division of the island. It is apparently controlled by Tapongi, whose chief garden is Vainngau. Settlement is practically confined to the shores of the lake.

* Dr. Northcote Deck : *Ibid.* p. 475.

† Not reproduced.

From Kunggava the lake may be reached by two routes. The usual route is by road to the coast near East Point on the southern coast, thence by canoe to the south-eastward. From the coast several "roads" lead inland to the lake. Mr. Hogbin reached Vainggau from Tuhangganggo, while a little later I reached Munggainggau from Onenggaguga. Native information indicates that many such "roads" exist. An alternative route is entirely overland to Hanggeuta, on the shores of the lake. This "road" was cut for us by Tapongi and his people, as we said that we did not like the canoe journey. It is extremely rough and difficult, and lies through entirely uninhabited country as far as Tatuku, where there is a small clearing from which a road leads to the southern coast. There is no permanent house or garden between Hongivaka and Hanggeuta. Except for the purposes of geological investigation it is not recommended. From Onenggaguga a steep and difficult ascent over the fissured limestone for about 25 minutes brings one to the summit of the rim of the atoll, at a height of very nearly 400 feet above the sea. From this point the road is continuously down hill, steep descents alternating with fairly level stretches. In about 25 minutes a garden, Nunggau, 220 feet below the level of the rim, is reached. Here are paw-paws, young coconuts, and a couple of small houses. Here also is a branch road (not shown on the map) leading to other gardens in the Sa'atupu sub-district. From this point a ridge 120 feet high must be crossed, after which a continual descent for about an hour brings one to Munggainggau on the shore of the lake, and 70 feet above the sea.

Munggainggau thus lies about two hours' march from the coast. This represents approximately 4 miles. It is clear that here the lake does not abut directly upon the rim of the atoll, but between the shoreline and the higher land is a sort of coastal plain. The immediate shoreline of the lake along these parts is low and frequently swampy. There is evidence in many places of a lowering of the level of the lake, so that taro is cultivated in mud-filled depressions that were formerly swampy arms of the lake.

At Munggainggau the lake is comparatively clear of islands. There is a single conspicuous one (Sanginganggitu) standing in apparently deep water towards the middle of the lake. To the westward of this the islands increase in number until at the western end of the lake (Munggivai) there is a veritable maze of them. To the westward again are extensive swamps out of which small hills project. Beyond this again is the uninhabited country towards Kunggava and the district of Lugu.

The far south-east end of the Tenggano District is known as Kunggivi. This was not visited by us for the reasons given in the Introduction (page 13 of this report). From a distance it would seem that the lake here abuts close to the highland rim, and that there is little or no coastal plain. Also that this end of the lake seems to be almost entirely island-free.

The reasons for the striking differences between the two ends of the lake (Munggivai and Kunggivi) are to be found in a consideration of the tilting movements which the island has suffered. The floor of the central depression is not flat. It is undulating, and there are hills and ridges in it which rise in some cases 100 feet above the general level. As a whole the island has been tilted towards the south-east. In consequence, at the south-east (Kunggivi) end, the lake is deepest; it has completely submerged all minor undulations on the floor of the lagoon and washes directly against the atoll rim. To the north-westward, however, the lake gradually becomes shallower. At first only the highest ridges of the lagoon floor appear as islands; then these islands increase in number; and finally the waters of the lake merge imperceptibly through a maze of swamps and low hills into the undulating floor of the central depression.

The Kunava (North-West District).

This is the other populous and important division of the island. It is separated from the Tenggano (Lake) District by the almost entirely uninhabited district of Lugu. It is apparently controlled by Tahua and (?) his elder brother Panio. Settlements appear to be more or less uniformly scattered throughout it. (See Map A.*)

From Kunggava Base Camp it is reached by canoe to Renggokipua, thence by "road" to Nunggau, which is the first garden on the road. Nunggau is about 5 miles from Tenggokipua, and the track lies through entirely uninhabited country of the Lugu District. Along this "road" there are no branch roads until after Palolo.

From Tenggokipua the "road" rises gently for about half-a-mile, reaching a height of about 250 feet. Then commences a short, steep descent, followed by a gradual rise to Tekala (270 feet). This represents the summit of the "road," which here crosses the rim of the island through a low gap. Tekala is only a name. It is a place on the road where people rest. Except that it is the highest point, there is nothing whatever to distinguish it from any other point on the road. About half-a-mile further on is Ongonggomu (210 feet) which like Tekala is only a resting place. Here the descent into the central depression really begins. There is a steep fall, followed by a long, gentle descent for about half-a-mile to Navaipongo. This point on the road is again almost a name only. Here is a tiny pool of water where a drink may be had. Follows a long and undulating walk over the fissured and jagged coral limestone to Palolo—again only a name—a resting place. After a further long undulating tramp the first garden and settlement is reached at Nganeu (115 feet). Five minutes further on is Nunggau (115 feet). Shortly before reaching the former place a branch track to the right leads in about a mile to the gardens of Taumako and Tuhenui (155 feet). From Tuhenui a short road leads direct to Nunggau.

Nunggau commences the Kunava District proper. From now on the "road" leads quickly from one garden to the next. Numerous branch "roads" exist and there are all sorts of alternative routes for reaching the same point. The country is entirely similar to most other parts of the central depression, and a description of any small portion of it, or of any one garden, would very nearly fit any part of the whole area.

The district was explored as far as Munggaiika. The position of this place on the Map is very approximate only. It must be about 12 miles from Tenggokipua, but as our visit was made during a particularly wet spell lasting several days there was no chance of fixing its position with greater accuracy.

At this point we found that there was an unwillingness among the locals to accompany us any further. They claim that the far north-west portion of the island (munggihenua) is not controlled by Tahua; that the people living there are "bad"; and that they do not know the "roads." The latter claim is probably true. Nevertheless, it seems to me that with a little determination the north-west end of the island could be reached without much difficulty, though it would almost certainly be a distinct advantage to engage a fresh set of carriers somewhere about Munggaiika.

GEOLOGY.*General.*

As far as is known, the island is composed entirely of coral limestone. There appears to be no outcrop of volcanic rock known to the natives. If such existed the rock would surely be used for making stone tools.

* Not reproduced.

A few stone tools *do* exist, but the stone for their making appears to be obtained as rounded pebbles embedded in the limestone. Some of these pebbles were found embedded *in situ* at a spot on the shore of Kunggava Bay about a mile north of the base camp. Their presence thus embedded in the limestone would seem to lend support to the well-known Darwinian (Subsidence) theory of the formation of atolls.

The limestone varies a good deal in lithological character. Only a relatively few representative specimens were brought back, for though of great scientific interest, the collecting of such specimens was not the primary object of the expedition.

When broken the limestone is usually one of two colours, viz., a pure white or else a light buff. On the rim of the island, the white rock seems to predominate, while in the interior depression the brownish rock is commonest. Fossil corals and shells are nearly always visible. In many places internal casts of the shells have weathered out of the rock and are literally strewn all over the surface.

Very rarely was there found any tendency to a banding in the rock; nor were found any specimens showing any trace of the pisolitic or nodular structures which are so frequently seen in the phosphatised rock of Ocean Island and Nauru.

As set out in the interim report specimens of limestone bearing tricalcium phosphate were obtained from several widely-separated localities.

Origin of Phosphate Deposits.

In prospecting for possible phosphate deposits at Rennell Island it is important to consider, first, the mode of origin of such deposits, and secondly, the peculiar configuration of the island and its probable tectonic history.

Stated briefly, the formation of phosphate of lime is due to the leaching of guano resting on limestone or coralline rocks. The ammonium phosphate, when taken into solution by water reacts with the calcium carbonate to form tricalcic phosphate and ammonium carbonate, the latter being lost. Consequently the final product *in situ* is a phosphatic rock which (as at Ocean, Nauru, and other and less known islands in the Pacific) occurs as a layer varying from a few inches to several feet in depth, resting upon and merging into limestone rock over considerable areas.

The immediate source of the guano is the excrement of sea birds which rest and nest upon low-lying coral islands in countless numbers. If elevation is slow the birds may well continue to occupy the slightly elevated islets for considerable periods of time; but once the island becomes vegetated then the sea-birds visit it no more. They may move to other localities for they prefer the low-lying, sandy islands of the sea-level coral reefs.

In the case of comparatively small islands like Ocean and Nauru the relative concentration of birds to the available space must have been very great. The case of Rennell is very different.

When it was at sea-level Rennell was a long narrow atoll aligned along the direction of the trade wind. Islets above sea-level would necessarily be annular (as in the case of large atolls like Funafuti, the Maldives and many others, which are at present at sea-level). After elevation the position of these islets would be taken by the rim of the island. Hence it is in the rim that we should expect from first considerations to find deposits of phosphate. Yet as emergence continued it is likely that in the central depression islets would appear which would form favourable haunts for the sea-birds. Such islets might be expected to be of relatively small extent, and, compared to the islets of the rim, of relatively small value as sources of phosphate.

Again, since the north-west end of the island appears to have been tilted more than the south-east end, it would appear that the rim at the former end should, above all other localities, be likely to be phosphatised.

Accordingly, in carrying out the reconnaissance, special attention was devoted to the rim of the island. Since all roads to the interior lead across the rim, this work may be done very conveniently. Also during the survey work several hills were cleared on the rim for the erecting of marks of reference. This gave an opportunity for examining some of the highest points on the rim, which would formerly have been annular islets, and where a priori a concentration of phosphate would be expected.

Localities where Phosphatic Limestone was found.

In spite of special attention thus being directed to the rim of the island, phosphatic limestone was discovered at only one locality actually on the rim. This was at the point shown on the Map A,* accompanying this report, where the "road" from Onenggaguga to Munggainggau crosses the rim of the island at a height of nearly 400 feet above sea-level. (See page 20 of this report.)

(A) On the freshly fractured surface this rock is light cream coloured, and exhibits a curious structure. In it are numerous short rod-like bodies of chalky white appearance. These may be the stem joints of one of the calcareous seaweeds. A portion of this rock was analysed, although the field tests alone indicated that the percentage of phosphate present was very small. The analysis showed 0.05 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride (P_2O_5), which is equivalent to 0.11 of tricalcium phosphate ($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

(B) The second locality from which rock-bearing phosphate was found is close to the Kunggava Base Camp, alongside the "road" leading to Hongaiika. The rock does not actually outcrop on the "road," but was found in a small cliff a few yards to the north. It is of very limited extent, and being a few feet only above the sea is far below the level of the top of the rim. Hereabouts the rim is certainly not phosphatised, for it was examined in great detail.

The rock is very fine grained, is a dark cream brown in colour and shows a distinct tendency to banding. In some of the bands there is a slight tendency to the development of a minutely pisolitic structure. Analysis of this rock revealed 0.27 per cent. of phosphoric anhydride— P_2O_5 —equivalent to 0.59 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate—($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

(C) Other localities at which rock bearing slight traces of phosphate were found are shown on Map A,* accompanying this report. The field tests indicate that they are of even poorer value than the exceedingly poor samples analysed above. They present no further features of interest.

Mode of occurrence.

Examination in the field leaves no reasonable doubt that these slightly phosphatised areas have any more than a very limited extent. In the first place, diligent search over many miles of "roads" and coastline has failed to reveal more than one or two occurrences. Again, when these are located they all appear to be closely associated with unphosphatised limestone, and never was it possible to trace them for more than a few yards laterally.

SUMMARY.

Rennell Island is situated almost 120 miles to the south-east of San Christoval. It is about 50 miles long, and varies in width from 6 to 12 miles. It is probably the finest example in the world of a raised atoll.

* Not reproduced.

The island has the form of a long, narrow dish. The coastline is steep-to, and cliffed in many places. The interior is a depressed basin which represents the lagoon of the ancient atoll. At present the rim has an average height of 500 feet, but there are several much lower gaps.

The surface is that characteristic of limestone regions—karst lands. Caverns and sink-holes are common. All rain quickly sinks underground.

As the whole the island has been slightly tilted, and at the south-east end of the central depression is an extensive brackish lake, the surface of which is about 70 feet above sea-level.

The vegetation is for the most part dense jungle.

The natives are mixed Polynesian and are quite friendly.

The island is composed entirely of limestone. Pebbles of volcanic rock found embedded in the limestone appear to support the Darwinian (Subsidence) theory of the formation of coral reefs.

Samples of limestone rock bearing tricalcium phosphate were obtained at several widely separated localities, which are shown on the Map* accompanying this report. The field tests indicated that the percentage of phosphate was much too low to be of commercial interest, and the phosphatised areas were found to be patchy and very localised.

The field tests were confirmed by analysis of two of the evidently richer samples. These showed 0.59 per cent. and 0.11 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate— $(Ca_3(PO_4)_2)$ —respectively. This percentage is quite negligible. For comparison, material from the famous phosphate islands of the Pacific is usually of very high grade, containing 80 to 90 per cent. of tricalcium phosphate after calcination to remove moisture. In South Australia, where deposits of phosphate rocks occur over wide areas, first-grade rock is regarded as over 60 per cent. while some second-grade is used as low as 50 per cent.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of the fact that a very large area of the island was not explored the possibility of the occurrence of commercially possible deposits of phosphate cannot be set aside. It is my considered opinion that, if present, they are of small extent.

The fact that the reconnaissance just concluded is incomplete does not warrant the expense and trouble of a second expedition being sent out for two reasons:—

(a) That the size of the island, the nature of the topography, and the difficulties offered by the vegetation and means of communication are such that at least six months would be required; and

(b) that in my opinion, the chances of ultimate success are much too slender.

G. A. V. STANLEY.

Department of Geography,
University of Sydney.

APPENDIX B.

GEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE ISLANDS OF OWA RAHA
(SANTA ANNA) AND OWA RIKI (SANTA CATALINA), EASTERN
SOLOMONS.

INTERIM REPORT.

Tulagi,

14th December, 1927.

Sir,

I have the honour to report herein results and impressions of my investigations for phosphates in the above districts from the 16th November to the 8th December, 1927.

Owa Raha.

An island of coral formation situate five miles east of Cape Serville, Makira, having an area of four and one-half square miles approximately, almost circular in shape, with longest axis north and south. From seaward the island appears to be surrounded by a continuous atollie rim. Actually this rim is a series of irregularly disposed ridges, which only at isolated points form the coastline. Elsewhere, a level platform varying in width from 200 to 500 yards at northern end and 100 yards to 200 yards on south and south-east forms the coastline. This platform is just above highest tide-level.

With the exception of Fereni these ridges rarely exceed an elevation of 120 feet. Fereni rises to about 530 feet and is of limestone formation to within about 50 feet of its summit. The crown of Fereni clearly indicates its volcanic core and the even height of the encircling limestone suggests incomplete submergence.

The interior of the island, representing the atoll lagoon, is undulating, and contains two freshwater lakes encompassed by irregularly disposed ridges which are units of the rim series only at the north end of the northern lake (Awelafa) and the south end of the southern lake (Waipiapia).

Lake Awelafa is the larger, being about three-quarters of a mile north to south and one-half mile wide. On sounding, this lake revealed an even gradation of depth from one fathom at the southern end to 18 fathoms at the northern end.

Awelafa is an assured supply of fresh water for any industrial purposes, and is suitable for domestic use though slightly flat to taste.

Its western shore lies about three-quarters of a mile from Port Mary (Upuna).

Waipiapia is circular, one-half mile in diameter, and has an even depth of one to two fathoms.

Both lakes keep practically constant level, only rising after abnormal rains.

The vegetation in general is of softwood tree growth rarely exceeding six inches in diameter, and is free from undergrowth.

Clearing would not be a serious problem.

The island is at present free from mosquitoes, has a high rainfall and a generally healthy climate. Malaria is normal amongst natives, but is probably contracted in the mainland Makira.

Owa Raha is divided into three districts—Upuna, Otogara and Finatogo. The two last-named are on the eastern side

A Mission School (South Sea Evangelical) is established and the Melanesian Mission visits Finatogo. Otagara has resisted missionary intrusion entirely.

Population about 330.

Port Mary, on the west coast, provides a good anchorage of seventeen to eighteen fathoms for all but strong north-west weather.

The general formation of the island and the favourable occurrence of the rock deposits both tend to the economical working of the available supply.

I collected some five hundred samples from Owa Raha, but shortage of acid enabled testing of only four hundred and five (405) samples, representing an area of approximately three square miles. The untested samples represent an area of about three-quarters of a square mile. The balance of the whole area (three-quarters of a square mile) is made up of the platform of the north and north-west, which contains no rock outcrop, but consists of a dark coral sand of considerable depth. Tests of this sand indicate general phosphatisation.

The tested samples gave a positive reaction of eighty-seven and one-half per cent. ($87\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.).

Owa Riki.

A coral island, situate two miles south from Owa Raha, having an area of one and one-half square miles.

The conformation is simple and consists of a gradually rising range extending from the western extremity and terminating about 400 yards from the eastern (Fereni) end, where it attains an elevation of 320 feet.

This range drops more steeply to the coast for most of its length on the southern side, and runs more to the centre of the island at its eastern end. The northern side falls gradually in two sloping platforms, leaving a flat strip between the lower platform and the north coast of about 500 yards width.

The surface outcrop is only visible at the ends of the range, the central portion being covered by a loose loam twelve to eighteen inches deep.

On completion of tests I expect to find an easily available area of one-half to three-quarters of a square mile of phosphatised rock, having a depth of two hundred or more feet at the eastern end to about sixty feet at the western end.

Owa Riki is completely encircled by reef about 200 yards wide, which would present shipping difficulties similar to those of Ocean Island. The natives are obliged to construct wells for their water supply. Vegetation is similar to that of Owa Raha.

Population about 150. Refuse Missions but are quiet and law-abiding. Seventy-two samples from the eastern end of Fereni, from base to summit, gave a positive reaction of ninety-seven per cent. (97 per cent.).

About 100 more samples remain to be tested.

Conclusion.

The area of Owa Riki is not sufficient to warrant independent working, bearing in mind the shipping difficulties. Tide rips cause a continuous swell, that breaks on the encircling reef. The establishment of industry at Owa Raha would make Owa Riki worth developing.

The field test used is purely qualitative. To give a definite opinion on the commercial possibilities of the phosphate present I would need to have a short inspection of an established field.

Should the phosphate be present in a comparatively low or inferior degree, the conditions of working and proximity to Australia are sufficient to warrant more investigation.

I am, etc.,

N. WILSON.

APPENDIX C,

Sydney University,

10th February, 1928.

DEAR SIR,

Herein I have the honour to submit my final report on investigations for phosphates on the islands Owa Raha (Santa Anna) and Owa Riki (Santa Catalina) in the Solomons group.

As quoted in my interim report* of December, 1927, a comprehensive series of qualitative field tests indicated a general phosphatisation of the coral rock, of which the islands are formed.

Having completed a series of quantitative analyses on samples obtained from this coral outcrop I estimate an average content of 1.20 per cent. phosphoric anhydride (P_2O_5), equivalent to 2.62 per cent. of tricalcic phosphate ($Ca_3(PO_4)_2$).

Material suitable for commercial development would require a minimum content of 25 per cent. phosphoric anhydride.

It is my opinion that further investigation is not warranted in these islands.

Kindly advise me if any further information is required.

I am, etc.,

N. H. C. WILSON.

Secretary to the Government,
High Commission for the Western Pacific, Suva.

*Appendix B, page 27.

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PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Reports for 1926-27 and 1927 see Nos. 1370 (Price 6d.) and
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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

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PREFACE.

Historical and Geographical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the Christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved abortive and the settlement short-lived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the Colony, sickness and conflict with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonisation and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some two hundred years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans, but from 1767, when Captain Carteret rediscovered the Santa Cruz group and the north-west coast line of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually missionaries established themselves and mission societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in the year 1845, and five years later the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in the year 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during the years 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

Language.

There is no universal language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are many parts of the Protectorate, however, where "pidgin" English is spoken and understood by the natives, especially in the Eastern parts of the group.

Currency.

Imperial and Australian sterling coins are the sole legal metallic currency. Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those of Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

In a brief summary of the principal events of importance affecting the progress of affairs in the Protectorate during the year 1928, reference must first be made to those matters directly arising out of the tragic massacre of the Government party at Sinarango, Malaita, on the 4th October, 1927.

On the 4th April, Mr. R. C. D. Higginson then Chief Police Magistrate in the Fiji Service, arrived in the Protectorate, having been specially appointed a Judicial Commissioner of the High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific for the purpose of adjudicating upon the various cases awaiting trial in connection with the Sinarango outrage. The Court opened its sessions on the 10th April following. In all 83 natives were indicted before the Court on charges of murder or of lesser offences connected with the major crime. Seven persons were eventually convicted of murder and condemned to be hanged, while seventeen others were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, the remainder being discharged. Of the seven natives sentenced to capital punishment, six were in due course executed at Tulagi Gaol, the seventh being subsequently reprieved by direction of the High Commissioner and ordered to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure. Having completed his mission Mr. Higginson left the Protectorate again on the 24th July in order to resume his substantive duties in Fiji.

In the meanwhile, on 5th July, Sir Harry C. Moorhouse, Kt., C.M.G., D.S.O., who had been selected by the Secretary of State as a Special Commissioner to inquire into the circumstances attaching to the murderous attacks made upon Government officials at Guadalcanal and Malaita during the year 1927, arrived in the Protectorate accompanied by Mr. H. G. Pilling, Secretary to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. The Special Commissioner took up his quarters at Tulagi and immediately commenced his investigations, which he continued without intermission until his departure from the Protectorate on the 1st September following. He visited various parts of the Protectorate during the course of his inquiries and thereby gained first-hand knowledge of the different Districts and the problems of administration peculiar to each.

On the recommendation of Sir Harry Moorhouse it was finally decided to repatriate all those natives of Sinarango who had been arrested and brought to Tulagi during the course of operations on Malaita and had since been detained there, but against whom either no charges had been preferred or no convictions recorded. A scheme for deporting these natives from Malaita and for settling them on some other island within the Protectorate had previously been under consideration. The work of repatriation was successfully carried out during the months of July and August, necessary transport being provided by the Government vessel *Ranadi*. The last batch of detainees left Tulagi for return to their homes on the 2nd August. Measures were adopted to provide the repatriated natives with a weekly supply of Government rations until such time as their gardens could be revived and they could once more produce a sufficient supply of food to satisfy their daily needs. The issue of rations was continued for a period of some five months, 11,000 lb. of rice in all being distributed as a relief measure. The decision to repatriate instead of deporting the Sinarango detainees appears so far to have been a wise policy on the part of the Administration, no trouble of any description having been reported from this hitherto wild and unruly district since the return of the natives to their homes.

In the month of August the Protectorate received an official visit from Doctor J. D. Tothill, Superintendent of Agriculture, and Mr. R. W. Paine, Assistant Entomologist, of the Fiji Government Service, who were seconded for temporary service in the Protectorate to carry out entomological investigations, in view of the extensive damage caused to coconut plantations throughout the Group by the beetle *Brontispa Froggatti* and other pests and the heavy annual cost incurred in trying to eradicate them. Their visit extended over a period of some two months, during which time, thanks to the courtesy and co-operation of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Limited, who provided transport facilities wherever necessary, they were enabled to make an extensive tour of the principal coconut

estates in the Protectorate and to collect a considerable amount of valuable information and data. Doctor Tothill's report on the result of his investigations is eagerly awaited by all those whose interests are concerned with the agricultural progress and development of the Group.

A satisfactory advance in medical administration was made during the year under review. The construction of a quarantine station—hitherto non-existent—on an island adjacent to Tulagi was begun during the year and was nearing completion at its close, while four new isolation wards for infectious cases, with separate kitchen, wardmen's quarters, etc., were added to the existing accommodation at Tulagi Hospital. With regard to the medical care and welfare of the natives of the Protectorate, extensive benefit was derived from the mass treatment of yaws and hookworm, which was carried on throughout the year by officers attached to the Rockefeller Assisted Yaws Campaign on the thickly populated island of Malaita and by the travelling Medical Officer in other parts of the Protectorate. Much useful work was also accomplished by the medical officers in charge of the native hospitals at Kokegolo, Su'u, and Vanikoro.

By direction of the High Commissioner, a medical committee was appointed to consider proposals for extending the existing medical establishment so as to render it more adequate to the present requirements of the Protectorate. The Committee, which was presided over by Doctor H. B. Hetherington, Senior Medical Officer, sat at Tulagi from the 14th–16th November and submitted a number of recommendations which are receiving attention.

On the 13th October, Captain R. R. Kane, M.C., who had held the office of Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate since March, 1921, proceeded on furlough prior to his retirement on pension. From his departure until the end of the year, Captain N. S. B. Kidson, Secretary to the Government, acted as Resident Commissioner.

It is necessary to record, with deep regret, the death during the year of two European officers of the Protectorate Service. Mr. A. H. Studd, District Officer, Santa Cruz, who had first joined the Protectorate Service as Clerk to the Resident Commissioner in April, 1921, died at the Government Station, Vanikoro, on the 14th October. Mr. Studd was confirmed in the post of District Officer on the 1st January, 1927, and had shown energy and ability in his execution of the more responsible duties of the office to which he had been promoted. Mr. R. W. Stone, who had arrived in the Protectorate four months previously as Clerk and Dispenser to the Medical Department, died at Tulagi Hospital on the 14th September. Pneumonia following acute malarial infection was the cause of death in both cases.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, was £75,664 6s. 10d., as against £77,444 19s. 0d. for the previous financial year. The total expenditure was £73,993 3s. 10d., as against £63,740 12s. 0d. for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1923-1924	...	64,329	15	8	52,655	12	7
1924-1925	...	64,091	6	9	65,409	2	1
1925-1926	...	71,430	5	3	60,330	3	3
1926-1927	...	77,444	19	0	63,740	12	0
1927-1928	...	75,664	6	10	73,993	3	10

There has been no change in the method of raising revenue and the rates of taxation have not been altered. There is no loan.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

With the exception of the copra industry there is no "agriculture" in the Protectorate.

Fisheries.

Bêche de mer, trocas, and turtle shell are worked to a small extent. It cannot be claimed that the above-mentioned industries show any tendency towards increased production.

Forestry.

There is no "forestry" in the accepted sense in the Protectorate, although various kinds of softwoods are worked and some have been shipped to Australia. There are no indications, however, that the export industry will attain any magnitude. At Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company (Proprietary), Limited, are engaged in the exploitation of kauri pine. The neighbouring island of Tevai, rich in kauri, is a Government reserve.

Exports.

A table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given opposite.

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1923-24 TO 1927-28.

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>
	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Value.</i> £
Bêche de Mer ...	3½ tons 310	15½ tons 1,896	16 tons 2,727	26½ tons 7,512	39 tons 7,470
Copra ...	18,278 tons 273,563	16,508 tons 287,702	19,206 tons 369,283	22,316 tons 411,597	21,957 tons 348,793
Black Lip Shell ...	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell	1 ton 17	15 tons 216	33 tons 619	22 tons 364	56 tons 1,299
Mother Pearl Shell	—	¾ ton 88	—	—	—
Trocas Shell ...	205 tons 5,251	334 tons 11,153	377 tons 21,245	260 tons 14,200	299 tons 12,653
Turtle Shell ...	3 cwt. 285	2½ cwt. 191	1½ cwt. 198	3 cwt. 297	3 cwt. 327
Ivory Nuts ...	474 tons 5,371	1,568 tons 23,421	1,380 tons 16,144	893 tons 12,158	1,363 tons 13,579
Timber Logs ...	324,465 super.ft. 1,642	283,106 super.ft. 4,818	526,876 super.ft. 7,261	719,901 super.ft. 5,750	224,629 super.ft. 2,060
Miscellaneous ...	— 130	— 1,726	— 1,341	— 116	— 2,638
Total value ...	£286,569	£331,211	£418,818	£451,994	£388,819

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The State of Trade.

The value of imports has decreased by £24,528 and the value of exports by £63,175. Plantation development is almost at a standstill owing to scarcity of labour.

Character and Nature of Trade.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the total imports. The only regular steamship trading line with the Protectorate is from ports in the Commonwealth.

Trade with the United Kingdom decreased during the period under review by £8,855 and the decrease in respect of other parts of the Empire was £18,754. There would appear to be little prospect of any considerable increase in imports of British goods unless a preferential tariff were brought into force.

Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia and there is practically no competition by local retailers.

A list of the principal imports, together with their country of origin, follows :—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Country of origin.</i>
Kerosene	77,638 gallons	United States
Benzene	5,039 "	Persia
	94,450 "	United States
	2,369 lb. Avoir.	Australia
Tobacco	1,397 "	United Kingdom
	113,551 "	United States
	29,259 gallons	Australia
Beer	216 "	United Kingdom
	465 "	Germany
	£6,600	Australia
	£108	Belgium
	£984	China
	£38	France
Drapery	£152	Fiji
	£1,047	Japan
	£357	New Zealand
	£7,543	United Kingdom
	£555	United States
	997 tons	Burma
Rice	28 "	China
	535 "	India
	321,723 super. feet	Australia
	131 "	Canada
Timber	19,359 "	New Zealand
	108,523 "	United States
	£4,846	Australia
	£46	Germany
Hardware	£140	New Zealand
	£2,180	United Kingdom
	£437	United States
	387,006 lb.	Australia
Meats	140,935 "	New Zealand
	4,021 "	United States
Bags and Sacks	32,150 dozen	India

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks and, after proceeding through the Group, returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes the annual sum of £3,000. In return the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights. Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Co.'s s.s. *Inga* has latterly been making intermittent voyages to the Protectorate via New Guinea, calling at the ports of Tulagi and Vanikoro and returning to Australia. In addition, direct oversea shipments of copra are made in Norwegian and Swedish steamers.

Railways and Roads.

There are none in the Protectorate. There are coral paths in Tulagi and in most of the Districts paths and tracks, varying in quality, link up villages and plantations. Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. The Government vessel *Ranadi* is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. *Malanta*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the s.s. *Koonookarra*, owned by Lever's Pacific Plantations Pty., Ltd., and the motor-vessel *Duranbah*, owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Is.), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

During the year under review 19 mails were despatched oversea from Tulagi.

The following are statistics of postal matter handled :—

			<i>Inland.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>
Prepaid letters ...	...	...	10,100	42,400	36,800
Unpaid letters ...	...	...	50	400	100
Post Cards ...	...	...	—	600	290
Printed matter ...	...	...	100	58,000	2,500
Commercial papers ...	...	...			
Admitted free ...	...	...	3,000	400	600
Totals ...	...	...	13,250	101,800	40,200
Registered articles (included in above totals).			500	2,000	1,500
Ordinary parcels ...	...	...	20	2,100	200

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. There are two privately-owned wireless stations in the group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo District owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. These two stations are sufficiently powerful to communicate with the outer world but, in accordance with the terms of their licences all their traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi connecting up the various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and every other judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, is by virtue of his office a Judicial Commissioner. Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty. The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the superior courts in England and the Deputy Commissioners have Civil Jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity, and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a criminal jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years penal servitude or upwards. With some exceptions all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order the High Commissioner has certain special powers for the deportation of persons whose proceedings endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

The Police and Prisons Department are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary and Superintendent of Prisons. He is assisted by a European sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the

Armed Constabulary consists of a Sergeant-Major and 119 other ranks, and there are 22 native warders and one native wardress attached to the Gaol. There is in addition a special establishment of Armed Constabulary patrolling the Sinarango bush district of the island of Malaita, consisting of one European officer, 3 non-commissioned officers and 22 other ranks.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review a new Government Station was provided for, and the quarters for an assistant District Officer were erected at Maka, on South Malaita. A Quarantine Station at Tulagi, some of the buildings of which have been erected on Double Island, has been established.

Other works were undertaken, but were of purely local interest.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered as satisfactory from a health point of view although hospital admissions were higher than for the previous year.

Europeans.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat, and particularly on account of the prevalence of malaria. There were six European deaths during the year from the following causes:—pneumonia 2, dysentery 1, pulmonary tuberculosis 1, malaria 1, and accidental drowning 1.

Asiatics.

The health of the Asiatic population was good. There were no deaths among them.

Natives.

Measles was epidemic during the year among the native population. The disease was mild in character and is not reported to have caused any deaths. There was an outbreak of bacillary dysentery among the inmates of Tulagi Gaol which caused a number of deaths. The disease did not spread beyond the prisoners and warders.

No other epidemic disease occurred during the year. Yaws, hookworm, and malaria are the most prevalent diseases of the native population. Tuberculosis is common, and is one of the most frequent causes of death. Respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia, are also a major cause of death among the natives.

General.

In January an intensive campaign for treatment of yaws and hookworm was commenced on Malaita, two treatment units being engaged there throughout the year. During the year 30,491

injections were given in respect of 11,405 natives treated for yaws, and 16,301 natives received treatment for hookworm. This campaign was carried on with the aid of the Rockefeller Foundation.

A similar campaign of mass treatment of these diseases was carried on by the travelling Medical Officer in the Eastern Solomons.

Sanitary work on Tulagi has been expanded during the year. A full-time sanitary inspector has been appointed, and a gang of ten labourers engaged for reclamation work. This is additional to the prison sanitary squad which is always engaged on sanitary work. Efforts have been mainly directed against the mosquito. Swamps are being drained or filled, streams channelled, and underbrush and grass kept down. Government Hospitals at Tulagi, Gizo, Su'u, and Vanikoro have supplied free medical treatment to natives. In those districts not provided with a medical officer, medicines have been supplied to missions and reputable planters for distribution among the natives.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission bodies. For the financial year under review the sum of £150 was included in the estimates of expenditure for technical grants to Mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

South Sea Evangelical Mission	...	...	...	£50
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	...	...	...	£50
Methodist Mission	...	...	...	£50

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The survey work performed in the Protectorate to date has been for the most part isolated surveys of alienated blocks. Where these blocks are in reasonable close proximity they are linked up by coastal traverse. Since 1921 the Lands Department has concentrated on surveys in connection with the work of the late Lands Commission, but a number of surveys are still outstanding. Owing to the shortage of staff it has been found impossible to perform any land survey work during the year under review.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour strength, about one unit to ten acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of 16

years, and as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of fourteen years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. per mensem and 10s. per mensem for labourers and light labourers respectively.

For the most part labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and repatriation to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependents, the employer is under similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the Native Labour Department and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike.

The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform are controlled by definite sections in the Labour Regulations and a system of "task work" is in vogue, $5\frac{1}{2}$ tasks completing one week's work.

On time-work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours per diem and on task work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

The average number of labourers employed throughout the group is approximately 6,000 distributed among 227 employers.

J. C. BARLEY,

*Acting Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.*

10th May, 1929.

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PREFACE.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East Longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, in area approximately 249,000 square nautical miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population is estimated at 150,000.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mandana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island of Ysabel was first sighted, and Mandana bestowed the Christian name of his wife on the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mandana sailed from Peru, but he failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group, and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new Colony proved a failure, and the death of Mandana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville, in the frigate "la Boudeuse," sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest for the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island on the right being named Bougainville after him, and the one on the left named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates "l'Astrolabe" and "la Boussole" on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at Pi'ou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time, many Europeans visited the Solomons, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on the plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903, and most of the natives were repatriated. Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Solomons, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred by Treaty from Germany to Great Britain.

LANGUAGE.

There is no universal language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken, and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are many parts of the Protectorate where a form of broken English is spoken and understood by the natives, especially in the eastern parts of the Group.

CURRENCY.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5, and Australian currency is also in circulation.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those in Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

No event of political importance has occurred during the year. The Administrative Officers in charge of the Districts of Malaita, Guadalcanal, Gizo, Santa Cruz, Shortlands, Ysabel, Eastern Solomons, and N'Gela, into which the Protectorate is divided, have travelled their respective districts as far as circumstances would permit. In districts composed of scattered groups of islands, the travelling depends almost entirely on the state of the weather

and the efficiency of the district vessels, fitted with auxiliary motor-engines. On the large islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal, San Cristoval, and Ysabel, inland travelling is exceptionally difficult owing to the mountainous state of the country.

In May there was an outbreak of poliomyelitis among the native population. In this epidemic the first three known cases occurred simultaneously, almost to a day—one in Malaita district at Su'u, one on Savo Island in N'Gela district, and one in Gizo district in the Marovo Lagoon, but before they were discovered a prisoner in Tulagi gaol developed the disease on the 11th June, and at about the same time three cases occurred among the labourers on two adjoining coconut plantations in Guadalcanal district. No relationship between these widely-scattered early cases was ever discovered, nor is the source of infection known. The disease spread through the islands from these widely-scattered foci of infection. In all, 63 persons are known to have died as a result. Preventive measures were enforced with a view to preventing the spread of the disease by limitation of traffic and communication, and cases and contacts were isolated, as far as possible. The various mission bodies co-operated in tending to cases and in persuading natives to remain in their villages and avoid contact with outsiders.

The recruiting and repatriation of time expired labourers were suspended from June until the 9th September. Little difficulty was experienced by employers when the labourer was assured that his detention was caused by precautionary measures issued by the Government.

The economic conditions existing in the Protectorate, owing to the low price of copra, have occasioned considerable anxiety. The whole of the finances of the Protectorate are dependent directly or indirectly on the copra trade, and there is no doubt that the small European planter and the native planters have suffered very severely. Unfortunately, the high price hitherto paid for this product and the scarcity of available native labour discouraged the exploitation of secondary sources of wealth, and it is only now that the matter is being seriously considered.

By direction of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, a Commission was appointed to inquire into the labour conditions. The Board consisted of Mr. J. C. Barley, First District Officer (Chairman), Dr. H. B. Hetherington, Senior Medical Officer, and Major F. Hewitt, M.C., Manager of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary Limited. The Board had not completed its deliberations by the end of the year.

The Advisory Council met on the 5th November and continued until the 8th November. The Council consisted of four official members, The Resident Commissioner, The Treasurer, Dr. H. B. Hetherington (Senior Medical Officer), Mr. J. C. Barley (First District Officer), and four non-official members, His Lordship the Bishop of Melanesia, Mr. Donald MacKinnon, Mr. Geoffrey Clift,

and Major F. Hewitt, M.C. At this Meeting, the Estimates for the next year, draft Regulations, and official matters in connection with the Administration of the Protectorate were discussed.

On 22nd November, 1929, His Excellency Sir Murchison Fletcher, Kt., C.M.G., C.B.E., arrived in Fiji and assumed duty as High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

A reported find of gold on the north-west coast of the island of New Georgia in July caused a certain amount of sensation, both locally and in Australia. No evidence has been supplied to the Mining Board that gold in payable quantities has been discovered; however, 80 Miner's Rights have been issued, and 8 Prospecting Licences have been taken out.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1929, was £79,935 4s. 3d., as against £75,664 6s. 10d. for the previous financial year.

The total expenditure was £91,622 0s. 6d., as against £73,993 3s. 10d. for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1924-25	64,091	6	9	65,409	2	1
1925-26	71,430	5	3	60,330	3	3
1926-27	77,444	19	0	63,740	12	0
1927-28	75,664	6	10	73,993	3	10
1928-29	79,935	4	3	91,632	0	6

There has been no change in the method of raising revenue, and the rates of taxation have not been altered. There is no loan.

III.—PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE.

With the exception of coconuts, there are no crops grown for export. Recently, owing to the depression of the copra market, a few of the more enterprising planters have begun to grow small quantities of secondary crops, such as cotton, groundnuts, and kapok.

FISHERIES.

Bêche-de-mer and trocas and turtle shell are worked to a small extent.

FORESTRY.

There is no Forestry Department. A small quantity of timber is exported from Shortlands, and a considerable amount of kauri pine is shipped from Vanikoro by the timber company there.

A comprehensive table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given below:—

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1924-25 TO 1928-29.

	1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.		1927-28.		1928-29.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Béch-de-mer...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Copra...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Black Lip Shell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green Snail Shell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mother Pearl Shell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trocas Shell...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Turtle Shell ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ivory Nuts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Timber Logs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	15½	£ 1,896	16	£ 2,727	26¾	£ 7,512	39	£ 7,470	22½	£ 3,350
	16,50	287,702	19,206	369,283	22,316	411,597	21,957	348,793	23,525	387,079
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	216	33	619	22	364	56	1,299	117	2,192
	3¾	88	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	334	11,153	377	21,245	260	14,200	299	12,653	401	17,383
	2½	191	1½	198	3	297	3	327	2	235
	1,568	23,421	1,380	16,144	893	12,158	1,363	13,579	1,458	15,892
	283,106	4,818	526,876	7,261	719,901	5,750	224,629	2,060	1,069,499	9,700
	—	1,726	—	1,341	—	116	—	2,638	—	45,000
	—	331,211	—	418,818	—	451,994	—	388,819	—	480,831

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

THE STATE OF TRADE.

The value of imports at the close of the financial year 1928-29 had increased by £30,948, and the value of exports by £92,012.

The increase in exports is due to a quantity of zinc slabs and ore, value £40,000, which formed part of a cargo of a Norwegian Steamer burnt at Gizo.

CHARACTER AND NATURE OF TRADE.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the imports. This is due to the fact that the only regular steamship line trading with the Protectorate sails from ports in the Commonwealth.

Trade with the United Kingdom increased by £2,373 during the year 1928-29, and the increase in other parts of the Empire was £16,105.

Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia, and there is practically no competition by local retailers.

A list of the principal imports, together with their country of origin, follows:—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Country of Origin.</i>
Kerosene	99,014 gals. ...	United States.
"	133 " ...	Persia.
"	5,474 " ...	Borneo.
Benzine	62,075 " ...	United States.
"	3,772 " ...	Borneo.
"	488 " ...	Persia.
Tobacco	128,707 lb. ...	United States.
"	2,223 " ...	Australia.
"	1,120 " ...	United Kingdom.
Beer	22,232 gals. ...	Australia.
"	207 " ...	United Kingdom.
"	144 " ...	Germany.
Drapery	£7,018 ...	Australia.
"	£10,679 ...	United Kingdom.
"	£1,195 ...	Japan.
"	£2,712 ...	China.
"	£171 ...	Germany.
"	£198 ...	Fiji.
"	£1,526 ...	United States.
"	£220 ...	France.
"	£725 ...	New Zealand.
Rice	1,233 tons ...	India.
"	35 " ...	China.
"	621 " ...	Burma.
Timber	308,321 S.F. ...	Australia.
"	18,720 " ...	New Zealand.
"	142,963 " ...	United States.
"	3,617 " ...	Norway.
"	250 " ...	Denmark.
"	503 " ...	New Caledonia.

<i>Commodity.</i>					<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Country of Origin.</i>
Hardware	...	...	...	...	£3,474	...	Australia.
"	...	...	...	...	£2,048	...	United Kingdom.
"	...	...	...	...	£514	...	United States.
"	...	...	...	...	£485	...	New Zealand.
Meats	...	...	...	...	501,246 lb.	...	Australia.
"	...	...	...	...	80,319	..	New Zealand.
"	...	...	...	...	13,096	..	New Caledonia.
"	...	...	...	...	1,378	..	China.
"	...	...	...	...	4,160	..	United States.
"	...	...	...	...	6,144	..	United Kingdom.
Bags and Sacks	...	...	...	...	37,218 doz.	...	India.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The MATARAM has called direct from Australia every six weeks during the past year, and, after proceeding through the Group, returned to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government, to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

The MARSINA of the same Company called every six weeks at Tulgai from the mandated territory of Papua.

Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Company's vessel INGA has made intermittent voyages to the Protectorate via New Guinea, calling at the Ports of Tulagi and Vanikoro, and returning to Australia.

In addition, direct overseas shipments were made in British, Swedish, and United States steamers during 1929.

RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

There is none in the Protectorate, except that on many plantations where motor-cars are used ribbon tracks of coral have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. The Government vessel RANADI is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. MALANTA, owned by Messrs. Burns, Philp and Company, the s.s. KOONOOKARRA, owned by Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary Limited, and the motor vessel DURANBAH owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter, (Solomon Islands) Limited.

POSTAL.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE, 1929.

craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

During the year under review, 20 mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi.

The following are statistics of postal matter handled :—

	<i>Inland.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>	<i>Received.</i>
Prepaid letters	11,200	46,976	68,430
Unpaid letters	60	100	400
Post Cards	—	250	700
Printed Matter, Commercial Papers, etc.	150	5,592	67,572
Admitted free	5,000	1,308	3,600
Total	16,410	54,226	140,702
Registered articles (included in above total).	214	1,134	1,170
Ordinary parcels	22	299	2,366

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there are two privately-owned wireless stations in the Group—one at Kokelego (Roviana) in the Gizo District, owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District, owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. These two stations are sufficiently powerful to communicate with the outer world but, in accordance with the terms of their licences, all their traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up the various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and all other Judges for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, are by virtue of their offices Judicial Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty. The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The principal Legal Officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is a Judicial Commissioner.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, and the Deputy Commissioners have Civil Jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity and Bankruptcy,

with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a Criminal Jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years penal servitude or upwards. With some exceptions, all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order, the High Commissioner has certain special powers for deportation of persons whose proceedings endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding the Armed Constabulary. He is assisted by a European Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, and a European Gaoler.

The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of two Sergeant-Majors and 141 other ranks. They are distributed in detachments throughout the Districts.

The discipline of the Force has been good.

The Constabulary are armed with the Lee-Enfield Rifle.

The health of the prisoners, confined in prisons situated in the various Districts, has been good. The discipline of the staff has been satisfactory. The prison buildings are adequate.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The work of this Department has been necessarily curtailed owing to the financial stringency which has been necessary during the year. Several minor works have been carried out and the usual necessary maintenance of buildings. Repairs have been effected to the iron lattice work on the Red Beacon at Tulagi, and the superstructure of the White Beacon was added to, to raise the height to 60 feet above high-water mark, at the request of the Australian Naval Authorities.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered satisfactory from a health point of view. The hospital admissions were fewer than for the previous year.

EUROPEANS.

The population of Europeans is 493.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat, and particularly on account of the prevalence of malaria. There were six European deaths during the year, from the following causes:—malaria three, blackwater fever one, pleurisy one, and accidental one. There was no mortality among the Government officials.

ASIATICS.

The health of the Asiatic population was good. There were two deaths among them:—malaria one, and unknown cause one.

NATIVES.

An epidemic of acute poliomyelitis broke out in May, and spread throughout the islands. The last known case occurred on the 16th October.

Measures for control of the disease were enforced to prevent it spreading. In spite of these precautions, however, 276 cases were reported. Of these, 63 died from the disease.

Measles, which was prevalent in 1928, completely disappeared during the first three months of 1929.

Leprosy is not uncommon in the Protectorate, and 34 lepers have received treatment during the year.

Tuberculosis is common, and is one of the most frequent causes of death. Respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia, are also a major cause of death among the natives.

The treatment of yaws and hookworm is carried out systematically and intensively by the Rockefeller Assisted Medical Campaign, the Travelling Medical Officer, and subsidized Medical Officers and Missionaries. During the year, 24,576 injections were given to 13,083 natives for yaws, and 18,157 natives received treatment for hookworm. The figures do not include treatment of hookworm and yaws by the subsidized Medical Officers at Su'u and Vanikoro, nor the number of natives treated for hookworm by the subsidized Missions, who, however, gave 2,444 injections for yaws.

SANITARY.

Sanitary work on Tulagi has been carried out by a full-time Sanitary Officer during the year, and the results achieved have been correspondingly good. The oiling of drains and swampy areas has been carried out weekly.

GENERAL.

Tulagi Hospital has wards for European, Asiatic, and native patients. Small native hospitals are maintained at District Headquarters in charge of native dressers working under the supervision of the District Officers. Natives receive free medical treatment. There is also a native hospital at Su'u, South Malaita, and there are subsidized Mission Hospitals in the Gizo District (Methodist Mission), North Malaita (Melanesian Mission), and at Choiseul (Methodist Mission).

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various mission bodies. For the financial year under review, the sum of £150 was included in the Estimates of Expenditure for technical grants to mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

	£
South Sea Evangelical Mission	50
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	50
Methodist Mission	50

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

During the year, 35 surveys have been carried out, and the last of the Lands Commission surveys has now been performed. A sub-divisional survey of Chinatown has also been made, and the boundaries of Messrs. Lever's Occupation Lease have been demarcated.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour-strength, about one unit to 10 acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of 16 years, and as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of 14 years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. *per mensem*, and 10s. *per mensem* for labourers and light labourers respectively.

For the most part, labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters, who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and repatriation to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependents, the employer is under similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the Native Labour Department, and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike.

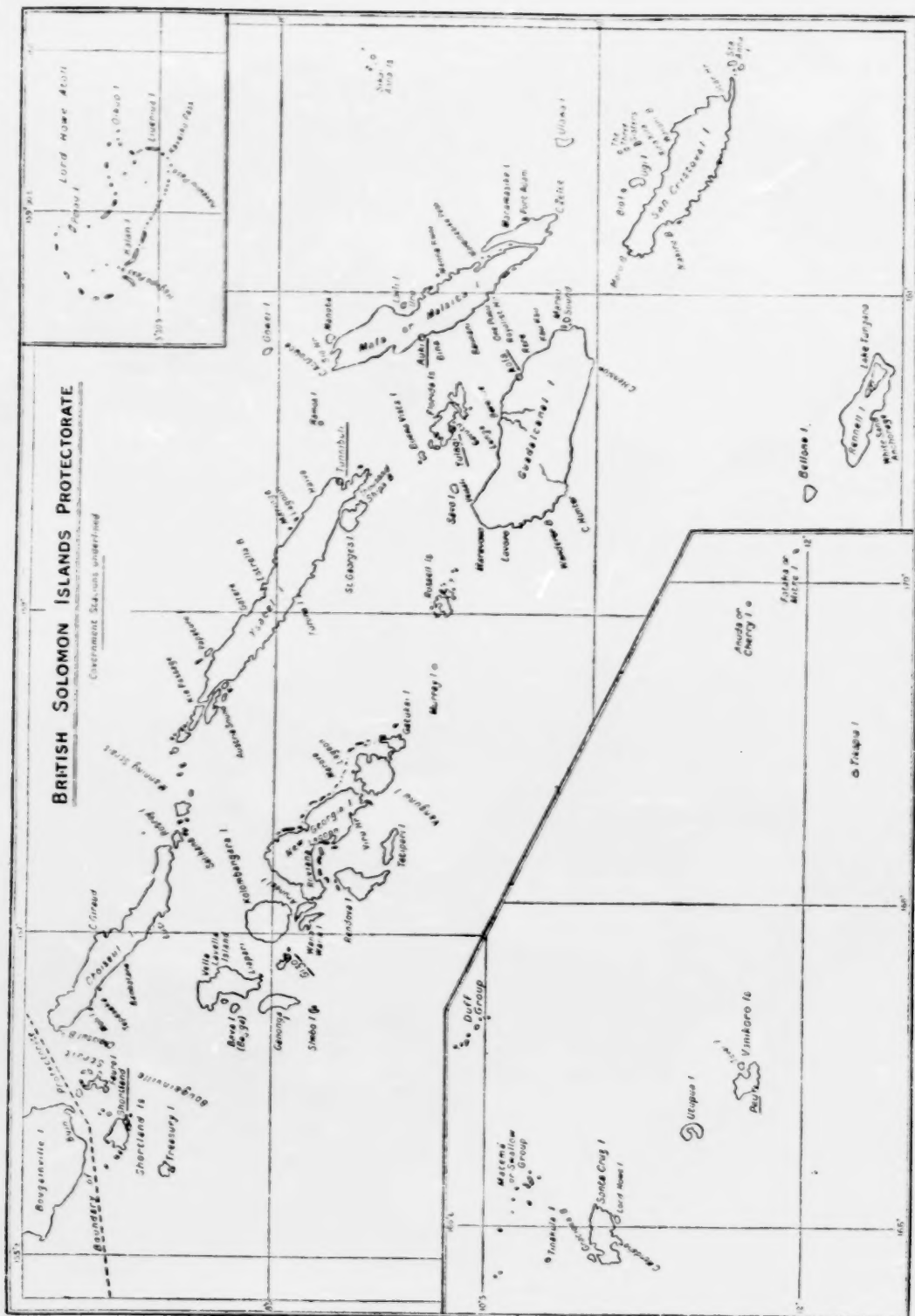
The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform are controlled by definite sections in the Labour Regulations, and a system of "task work" is in vogue, 5½ tasks completing one week's work.

On time-work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours *per diem* and on task work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

The total number of labourers employed throughout the Group during the year was 5,171. The number of natives recruited during 1929 was 2,005.

F. N. ASHLEY,
Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

31st March, 1930.



EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

- Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6d. (7d.).
- Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).
- Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).
- Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).
- The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6d. (8d.).
- Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).
- Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).
- Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).
- Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9d. (11d.).
- Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 10d.).
- Wool, a study of the fibre. September, 1929. (E.M.B. 21.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 11d.).
- The Demand for Cheese in London. November, 1929. (E.M.B. 22.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).
- Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).
- Indian Sunn (or Sann) Hemp. Its Production and Utilization. February, 1930. (E.M.B. 25.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).
- British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 26.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Cocoa. World Production and Trade. May, 1930. (E.M.B. 27.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).
- Empire Marketing Board. May, 1929 to May, 1930. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 28.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).
- The Biological Control of Insect and Plant Pests. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 29.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 4d.).
- Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927-29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE

REPORT FOR 1930

*(For Report for 1928 see No. 1442 (Price 1s.) and for Report for
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REPORT FOR 1930.

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PREFACE.

Geographical and Historical Note.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, in an area approximately 249,000 square nautical miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population is estimated at 150,000.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted they named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that they left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group, and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Boudeuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island on the right being named Bougainville after him, and the one on the left named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'ieu on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time, many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated.

Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

Language.

There is no universal language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken, and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are many parts of the Protectorate where a form of broken English is spoken and understood by the natives, especially in the eastern parts of the Group.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5. United Kingdom and Australian coinage are in circulation.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those in Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

No event of political importance has occurred during the year. The Administrative Officers in charge of the Districts of Malaita, Guadalcanal, Gizo, Shortland, Ysabel, Eastern Solomon Islands,

and N'Gela have travelled their respective Districts to visit the natives in their villages as far as circumstances have permitted. The District Officer of the Santa Cruz District has been without a ship as it has been undergoing extensive repairs.

In Districts composed of scattered groups of islands the amount of travelling done depends almost entirely on the state of the weather and the efficiency of the vessels fitted with auxiliary engines. Strong south-easterly winds, until the last month of the year made District travelling at times a hazardous undertaking in small ships.

On the large islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal, San Cristoval and Ysabel inland travelling is exceptionally difficult owing to the mountainous state of the country.

The abnormally high and persistent south-east wind coincided with a drought over practically the whole Protectorate. On Ysabel, however, a phenomenal fall of rain occurred during the night of 8th August, and early morning of 9th August, over twenty inches of rain being registered in fourteen hours.

The economic conditions existing in the Protectorate are difficult and have occasioned considerable anxiety. The price of copra, the only industry, was never so low as it is to-day, even before the war. It is not possible to produce copra on plantations at the price offered and it is doubtful if the native can produce economically even when the whole family assists in the production.

The requirements of the native, in these well-timbered tropical islands whose waters provide him with an abundance of fish, are small and what might be termed luxuries he does without in hard times. The purchasing power of the handful of European and Chinese residents is reduced with the result that the imports during the present year have fallen very seriously.

In November the export duty on copra was removed, giving considerable relief to the planters and others.

Owing to the financial stringency the Protectorate Government decided to pay off the vessel *Ranadi* and place her on the market.

On the 12th July, H.M.S. *Veronica* (Captain G. W. T. Robertson) arrived at Tulagi and visited Shortland and Gizo. On the 22nd of September, H.M.A.S. *Australia* and H.M.A.S. *Anzac* visited Tulagi with Rear-Admiral E. R. G. R. Evans on board.

The Advisory Council met on the 20th of October, and continued until the 23rd of October. The Council consisted of four official members (the Resident Commissioner, the Legal Adviser, the Secretary to the Government, and the Treasurer), and four non-official members (His Lordship the Bishop of Melanesia, Mr. Donald Mackinnon, Mr. Geoffrey Clift, and Major F. R. Hewitt, M.C.).

At this meeting the Estimates for the year 1931-32, draft Regulations, and other matters in connexion with the administration of the Protectorate were discussed.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1930, was £76,678 5s. 6d. as against £79,935 4s. 3d. for the previous financial year.

The total expenditure was £68,807 1s. 8d. as against £91,622 0s. 6d. for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years has been as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1925-26	71,430	5	3	60,330	3	3
1926-27	77,444	19	0	63,740	12	0
1927-28	75,664	6	10	73,993	3	10
1928-29	79,935	4	3	91,632	0	6
1929-30	76,678	5	6	68,807	1	8

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

With the exception of coconuts, there are no crops grown for export. Recently, owing to the depression of the copra market, a few of the more enterprising planters have begun to grow small quantities of secondary crops, such as cotton, groundnuts, and kapok.

Fisheries.

Bêche-de-mer and trocas and turtle shell are worked to a small extent.

Forestry.

There is no Forestry Department. A small quantity of timber is exported from Shortland, and a considerable quantity of kauri pine is shipped from Vanikoro by the Timber Company there.

A comprehensive table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given below :—

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1925-26 TO 1929-30.

	1925-26.		1926-27.		1927-28.		1928-29.		1929-30.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bêche-de-mer	16	£ 2,727	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	£ 7,512	39	£ 7,470	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 3,350	4	£ 520
Copra...	19,206	369,283	22,316	411,597	21,957	348,793	23,525	387,079	21,300	304,088
Green Snail Shell	33	619	22	364	56	1,299	117	2,192	114	2,411
Trocas Shell...	377	21,245	260	14,200	299	12,653	401	17,383	450	26,325
Turtle Shell	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	198	3	297	3	327	2	235	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	163
Ivory Nuts	1,380	16,144	893	12,158	1,363	13,579	1,458	15,892	840	8,232
Timber Logs...	526,876	7,261	719,901	5,750	224,629	2,060	1,069,499	9,700	1,932,107	9,276
Miscellaneous	—	1,341	—	116	—	2,638	—	45,000	—	2,426
	—	418,818	—	451,994	—	388,819	—	480,831	—	353,441

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The State of Trade.

The value of imports at the close of the financial year 1929-30 had decreased by £46,834 and the value of exports by £127,390.

The decrease in imports is due to general trade depression and exports to decrease in quantity and value of copra exported. Moreover, during the previous year a quantity of zinc slabs and ore, to the value of £40,000, forming part of the cargo of a Norwegian steamer which was burnt at Gizo, was exported.

Character and Nature of Trade.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the imports. This is due to the fact that the only regular steamship line trading with the Protectorate sails from ports in the Commonwealth.

Trade with the United Kingdom decreased by £3,102 during the year 1929-30, and the decrease in other parts of the Empire was £30,498.

Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia, and there is practically no competition by local retailers.

A list of the principal imports, together with their country of origin, follows :—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Country of Origin.</i>
Kerosene	70,674 gal.	United States.
"	83 "	Persia.
"	2,814 "	Borneo.
Benzine	65,216 "	United States.
"	1,640 "	Borneo.
Tobacco	116,261 lb.	United States.
"	2,333 "	Australia.
"	423 "	United Kingdom.
"	98 "	Africa.
Beer	18,689 gal.	Australia.
"	70 "	United Kingdom.
"	208 "	Germany.
Drapery	£5,869	Australia.
"	£6,881	United Kingdom.
"	£1,720	Japan.
"	£2,800	China.
"	£23	Germany.
"	£194	Belgium.
"	£43	France.
"	£87	Holland.
"	£622	New Zealand.
"	£434	United States.
Rice	592 tons	India.
"	820 "	Burma.
"	68 "	China.
Timber	269,231 S.F.	Australia.
"	49,155 "	New Zealand.
"	21,106 "	United States.
Hardware	£3,462	Australia.
"	£1,574	United Kingdom.
"	£241	New Zealand.
"	£271	United States.

<i>Commodity.</i>					<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Country of Origin.</i>
Meats ...	...	...	...	...	289,455 lb.	...	Australia.
" ...	...	...	...	...	58,792 „	...	New Zealand.
" ...	...	...	...	...	8,444 „	...	New Caledonia.
" ...	...	...	...	...	783 „	...	China.
" ...	...	...	...	...	3,513 „	...	United Kingdom.
" ...	...	...	...	...	6,454 „	...	United States.
Bags and Sacks	...	...	...	...	28,138 doz.	...	India.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The *Mataram* called direct from Australia every six weeks during the past year, and after proceeding through the Group returned to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government, to which the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

The *Marsina* of the same Company called every six weeks at Tulagi from the Mandated Territory of Papua.

In addition, direct overseas shipments were made in British, French, Swedish, and United States steamers during 1929-30.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication is also available by S.S. *Mitiaro*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company, the motor vessel *Kurimarau*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited, and the motor vessel *Duranbah*, owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Islands), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

During the year under review 22 mails were despatched overseas from Tulagi.

The following are statistics of postal matter handled :—

	<i>Inland.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>	<i>Received.</i>
Prepaid letters	11,500	46,600	70,940
Unpaid letters	80	120	450
Post Cards	—	260	600
Printed Matter, Commercial Papers, etc.	148	2,500	62,960
Admitted free	4,600	1,500	3,000
Total	16,328	50,980	137,950
Registered articles (included in above total).	130	1,130	1,300
Ordinary parcels	25	214	2,770

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the Timber Company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the Company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and all other Judges for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, are by virtue of their offices Judicial Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty. The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The principal Legal Officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is a Judicial Commissioner.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, and the Deputy Commissioners have Civil Jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity, and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a Criminal Jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years' penal servitude or upwards. With some exceptions, all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order, the High Commissioner has certain special powers for deportation of persons whose proceedings appear to endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding, Armed Constabulary. He is assisted by a European Sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of three Sergeants-Major and 142 other ranks. They are distributed in detachments throughout the Districts.

The Constabulary are armed with the Lee-Enfield rifle.

The health of the prisoners, confined in prisons situated in the various Districts, has been good. The prison buildings are adequate.

The Criminal Statistics of the Protectorate for the year 1929-30 are as follows :—

1.—CRIMES REPORTED TO, OR KNOWN TO, THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

Crime.	Crimes reported or known to the Police.			Persons proceeded Against.				
	Total.	Not brought before a Magisterial Court for want of Evidence.	Brought before a Magisterial Court.	Number.			Apprehended.	Summoned.
				Total.	M.	F.		
1. Homicide	21	—	21	21	21	—	21	—
2. Other offences against the person.	105	—	105	105	104	1	86	19
3. Praedial larceny ...	24	—	24	24	22	2	13	11
4. Other offences against property.	8	—	8	8	8	—	7	1
5. Other crimes	287	—	287	287	281	6	200	87

2.—PERSONS DEALT WITH IN DISTRICT COURTS BEFORE A DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Crime or Offence.	Num- ber.	Discharged.		Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Total.	For want of prosecution.	On the Merits of the Case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1. Homicide	10	—	3	7	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	132	1	23	8	100	65	1*	33	2
3. Prædial larceny ...	28	—	1	—	27	19	—	7	1
4. { Malicious injury to property. Offences against property (other than prædial lar- ceny and malicious injury to property)	15	—	1	—	14	10	—	4	—
5. Other crimes, viz. :— Offences against the Masters and Ser- vants laws, includ- ing laws relating to labourers under contract.	96	3	16	—	77	21	—	54	2
Offences against Re- venue Laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	209	6	3	—	200	73	—	96	31
Miscellaneous minor offences.	197	1	2	—	194	111	1	81	1

Of the total number of cases brought before the Courts 22 were females.

* Whipping in addition to imprisonment.

3.—PERSONS TRIED BEFORE A JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Crime or Offence.	Number.			Sex.		Not tried (Nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before Trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.						
	Total.	In Circuit Court.	In Resident Ma- gistrates' Court.	M.	F.				Total.	Death.	Penal Servitude.	Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1.—Murder of wife or concubine Murder of child ... Murder other than wife, con- cubine, or child. Manslaughter ...	1 — 12 —	— — — —	— — — —	1 — 12 —	— — — —	— — 1 —	— — — —	— — 1 —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —		
2.—Attempted murder ... Rape ... Unnatural crime ... Other offences against the person.	1 1 1 5	— — — —	— — — —	1 1 1 5	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	1 1 1 —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —	— — — —		
3.—Pre. adial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
4.—Offences against property with violence to the person. Other offences against property	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —		
5.—Other crimes ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—		

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The work of this Department has been necessarily curtailed owing to the financial stringency which has prevailed during the year. Several minor works have been carried out and the usual necessary maintenance of buildings.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered satisfactory from a health point of view. Compared with the previous year, the hospital admissions show a decrease in the number of Europeans and Asiatics, but an increase in the number of natives. The increase in native patients was due to the influenza epidemic on Tulagi in November and December, 1930.

Europeans.

The population of Europeans is 493.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat, and particularly on account of the prevalence of malaria. There were six European deaths during the year from the following causes:—cerebral malaria, two; haemorrhage, two; multiple abscesses and pyaemia, one; and cerebral haemorrhage, one. There was no mortality among Government officials.

Asiatics.

The health of the Asiatic population was good. There were three deaths among them:—general tuberculosis, one; inanition, one; and accidental from burns, one.

Natives.

Epidemics of whooping-cough and influenza were reported during the year, and both of these diseases were responsible for many deaths among the natives, especially infants and children. Whooping-cough was apparently introduced into the Protectorate from Australia.

Acute poliomyelitis did not recur this year.

No serious outbreak of dysentery was reported, but sporadic cases of this disease occurred from time to time. Tuberculosis is common, and is one of the most frequent causes of death. Respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia, are also a major cause of death among the natives. Leprosy is not uncommon in the Protectorate, and 37 lepers received treatment during the year.

The treatment of yaws and hookworm was carried out systematically and intensively by the Rockefeller Assisted Medical Campaign, Government Medical Officers, and subsidized Medical Officers and Missionaries.

During the year, the Rockefeller Assisted Medical Campaign gave 32,702 injections to 18,704 natives for yaws and treated 12,904

natives for hookworm. 805 injections for yaws were given to in-patients and out-patients at the Government Hospital, Tulagi.

Sanitary.

A vigorous sanitary campaign was carried out on Tulagi during the year, and the results achieved have been correspondingly good. House to house inspections, and the oiling of drains and swampy areas were carried out weekly.

General.

Tulagi Hospital has wards for European, Asiatic, and native patients. Small native hospitals are maintained at District Headquarters in charge of native dressers working under the supervision of the District Officers.

There are subsidized Mission Hospitals in the Gizo District (Methodist Mission), North Malaita (Melanesian Mission), and at Choiseul (Methodist Mission). There was also a native hospital at Su'u, South Malaita, under the control of a subsidized Medical Officer, but, owing to the departure of this officer, the hospital had to be closed during the latter part of the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various mission bodies. For the financial year under review, the sum of £150 was included in the Estimates of Expenditure for technical grants to mission schools. The following grants were made, in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

South Sea Evangelical Mission	... £50
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	... £50.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

During the year 1930, 21 surveys were carried out, the total area surveyed being 5,606 acres 1 rood. In addition, numerous plans and deeds were drafted in connexion with Messrs. Lever's new lease (to replace the old Certificates of Occupation) and various Conveyances, Leases, etc. Large plans of surveys and coastal traverses of the islands of Guadalcanal, Russell, Shortland, and Banika have also been prepared, and are still in course of preparation, for the Australian Naval Authorities.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour-strength, about one unit to 10 acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure

is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of 16 years, or as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of 14 years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. and 10s. *per mensem* for labourers and light labourers, respectively.

For the most part, labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters, who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and to repatriate him to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependants, the employer is under similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the various District Officers, and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike.

The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform are controlled by definite sections in the Labour Regulations, and a system of "task work" is in vogue, five and a half tasks completing one week's work.

On time-work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours *per diem* and on task-work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

F. N. ASHLEY,

Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

21st January, 1931.



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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, in an area approximately 249,000 square nautical miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) is 93,415.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted they named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that they left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group, and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Boudeuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island on the right being named Bougainville after him, and the one on the left named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time, many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated.

Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was :—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	1
Total					94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been greatly improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence have been enormously increased.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest

mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year, though the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom may be officials.

The Protectorate is divided up into seven administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of Municipal or Local Government or any Town Council at present.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

Births and deaths are recorded in the Districts of Guadalcanal, Gizo, Eastern Solomons, N'Gela, and Savo, and the records are believed to be accurate.

Owing to the illiteracy of the natives and to infrequency of communication, complete figures cannot be collected till some time after the end of the year concerned and are not available in time for inclusion in the annual report for the year.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1930.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Population.</i>			<i>Births.</i>			<i>Deaths.</i>		
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	7,407	6,986	14,393	201	175	376	399	299	698
Gizo ...	3,478	2,997	6,475	123	82	205	73	77	150
E. Solomons ...	4 320	3,656	7,976	104	115	219	148	139	287
N'Gela ...	2,046	1,846	3,892	24	43	67	31	34	65
Savo ...	398	350	748	8	13	21	12	7	19

M. = male. *F.* = female.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES.

<i>District.</i>	1930.		1929.	
	<i>Births.</i> <i>per 1,000.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i> <i>per 1,000.</i>	<i>Births.</i> <i>per 1,000.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i> <i>per 1,000.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	26·1	48·4	25·0	25·7
Gizo ...	31·6	23·1	24·9	23·2
E. Solomons ...	27·2	35·9	25·7	22·7
N'Gela ...	17·2	16·7	27·9	31·2
Savo ...	28·0	25·4		

No records are kept from which infantile mortality rates can be calculated.

PROTECTORATE NATIVE CENSUS, 1931.

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
N'Gela and Savo ...	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,374	12,163	693	285	7,708	6,934	40,067*
E. Solomons ...	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikiana ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483*
Totals ...	28,955	25,008	5,405	3,721	12,306	11,001	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

General.

What promised to be an unusually favourable year from a health point of view was marred by an outbreak of influenza which began in July and lasted for several months in various parts of the Group.

It is an unfortunate fact that infectious diseases which in civilized countries are of minor importance attain an unusual virulence when introduced among the natives and cause serious results. The

present epidemic of influenza caused no deaths among Europeans or Asiatics but resulted in considerable mortality among the native population.

Notwithstanding this epidemic there was a marked reduction in admissions to the Tulagi Hospital as compared with previous years :—

				<i>Admissions during</i>				
				1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
European	...	...	...	86	88	65	49	36
Asiatic	...	...	...	19	15	28	13	19
Native	...	...	...	557	743	557	603	468

The fall in the number of hospital admissions is not entirely due to a favourable year, but is to be attributed in part to the commercial depression which has resulted in fewer vessels operating in the Group and furnishing transport for patients.

Prevalent Diseases.

Malaria is endemic in the Group and it may be truthfully said that no permanent resident European, Asiatic, or native—escapes infection. The mortality resulting from the disease is serious especially among native children.

The present year has been unusually favourable with regard to malaria. The disease was responsible for 9 European, 4 Asiatic, and 62 native admissions to Tulagi Hospital, as compared with 15 European, 5 Asiatic, and 111 native admissions in 1930.

Blackwater fever is common among Europeans and Asiatics but is a rarity among natives.

No cases of blackwater fever were treated, as compared with 4 cases in 1930, and 4 in 1929.

Tuberculosis is a serious cause of mortality among the native population. It is feared that it is increasing. As regards tuberculosis the native dietary leaves much to be desired. Native diet is excessively carbohydrate, deficient in protein and fats, and probably in certain of the vitamins.

Leprosy.—There are some 60 known lepers in the Protectorate (all natives). It is believed that the disease is increasing. New cases are constantly being found. The Melanesian Mission maintains a leper colony at Quaibata on Malaita in charge of its Medical Officer, and the Methodist Mission maintains one in the Gizo District in charge of the Medical Officer of that Mission. This work is subsidized by the Administration. A ward in the isolation wing of the Tulagi Hospital (a separate building) is used for the reception of lepers. Lepers are not compelled to accept segregation and treatment and infectious cases frequently refuse it and remain, foci of infection, in their villages.

Yaws and Hookworm.—The Rockefeller assisted campaign for the treatment of these diseases, begun in 1928, was continued during the year, with two units operating. They administered 12,139 hookworm treatments and gave a total of 24,864 injections of neoarsphenamine for yaws.

Bacillary Dysentery.—This disease is endemic.

Native Labour.

Health of indentured labourers has been very good as shown by the following table :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Labour.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Percentage of Deaths.</i>
1927	6,115	83	1·3
1928	6,016	83	1·3
1929	5,171	58	1·1
1930	5,363	50	0·9
1931	4,301	26	0·6

The greatest number of deaths from any one cause (seven) was due to pneumonia.

Sanitation.

Sanitary measures have been directed mainly toward mosquito control and, on Tulagi, have consisted in regular inspections (weekly) of houses, regular oiling of creeks and pools of water, and clearing of bush in the vicinity of residences.

Quarantine.

King's Regulation No. 1 of 1930 (Quarantine Regulation) came into force on 1st April. No case of quarantinable disease was brought to any Protectorate port during the year. The quarantine station was not occupied at any time.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood, to withstand earthquakes, and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European construction consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

The natives, other than those in regular hired employment and living in their own villages, dwell in huts made of local materials consisting chiefly of bamboo and roofing mats made from palm leaves. These vary considerably according to the locality: the houses are generally large and roomy, except on Malaita, though there is little privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

Employers of manual labour are bound by regulations to maintain dwellings with suitable air and floor space. These dwellings have to be inspected by the employer daily and are inspected regularly by Government Inspectors. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1931, the Protectorate exported the following products:—

				<i>Quantity.</i>		<i>Estimated Value.</i>
						£
Copra	...	...	...	23,681 tons	...	271,828
Ivory nuts	...	...	...	724 „	...	5,653
Trocas shell	...	...	...	294 „	...	13,332
Bêche-de-mer	...	...	...	21 „	...	2,457
Green snail shell	...	...	...	106 „	...	1,909
Timber	...	...	...	786,639 sup. feet	...	4,683
						£299,862

Most of the copra was produced by companies.

Ivory nuts are grown in a state of nature and sold by natives to traders.

Timber is exported by a company operating at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group.

Trocas and green snail shell is fished for by natives and sold to traders.

Bêche-de-mer is gathered by a few Japanese under contract to a company trading in the Protectorate and is exported by them.

All the produce mentioned above is exported, none being consumed in the Protectorate.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole available labour supply for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, contracted and non-contracted. Conditions of employment under the contract system are controlled by regulations.

Natives may be recruited for periods not exceeding two years at wages not below £12 per annum for a male adult and £6 per annum for a male young person. Women may not be employed otherwise than to a European female for the purpose of domestic service.

The strength of the labour force employed throughout the Protectorate is approximately 2,000 contract labourers and 1,000 non-contract labourers.

Natives cultivate in gardens for their own use yams, sweet potatoes, panna, bananas, and other vegetable foodstuffs. The extent of cultivation is regulated by the food requirements of the natives and foodstuffs are not in general grown for marketing purposes.

Coco-nuts are not planted systematically by the natives but groves, the produce of which is used largely for food purposes, are to be found in the vicinity of most villages.

The amount of copra produced from native sources is estimated at 3,000 tons per annum. It is exported by the traders who buy it from the natives.

Most plantations are stocked with cattle, partly for food purposes, but mainly for the purpose of keeping down grass and weeds on the cultivated areas.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the years 1929, 1930, and 1931 are as follows :—

			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
			£	£
1929	...	...	295,141	480,741
1930	...	...	248,307	353,441
1931	...	...	215,269	304,310

Imports.

			<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>Other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
			£	£	£
1929	...	...	34,347	194,217	66,577
1930	...	...	31,245	163,719	53,343
1931	...	...	29,618	130,375	55,276

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Quantity.	1929.		1930.		1931.		
			doz.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
				£		£		£	
Bags and sacks.	India	...	doz.	28,138	12,667	37,218	16,716	28,220	10,639
Biscuits (plain).	Australia	...	lb.	670,306	13,615	782,890	15,535	547,877	10,390
Drapery ...	Australia	...	...	—	5,869	—	7,018	—	3,244
	China...	...	...	—	2,800	—	2,712	—	2,922
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	6,881	—	10,679	—	7,406
Hardware	Australia	...	...	—	3,462	—	3,474	—	3,576
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	271	—	2,048	—	1,000
Machinery	Australia	...	...	—	3,846	—	5,209	—	1,755
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	1,646	—	1,679	—	1,986
	U.S.A.	...	...	—	2,215	—	1,328	—	1,367
Meats(Prsd.)	Australia	...	lb.	352,299	11,894	452,443	14,380	335,301	11,378
	New Zealand	...	..	58,792	1,513	80,319	2,931	25,024	1,051
Kerosene ...	U.S.A.	...	gal.	70,674	5,002	99,014	7,835	59,029	4,054
	Borneo	...	..	2,814	208	5,474	413	28,309	1,179
Motor fuel	Borneo	...	..	1,640	165	3,772	396	1,992	193
	U.S.A.	...	..	65,216	5,910	62,075	6,208	88,803	6,420
Paints ...	Australia	...	tons	34	2,933	31	3,231	20	1,850
	United Kingdom	...	..	12	945	6	633	10½	1,082
Rice ...	Burma	...	..	890	14,170	621	10,102	1,102	16,256
	China...	...	..	68	1,393	35	588	42	660
	India	...	..	592	9,399	1,233	20,715	200	3,059
Tobacco ...	U.S.A.	...	lb.	116,261	14,757	128,707	17,219	100,057	13,124

Exports.

			Australia.	Europe.	United States of America.
			£	£	£
1929	...	...	345,116	135,375	—
1930	...	...	230,903	58,137	64,071
1931	...	...	197,624	90,296	16,200

Commodity.	Destination.	Quantity.	1929.		1930.		1931.		
			Value.	£	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
				£		£		£	
Copra	...	Australia	Tons	15,695	254,697	12,591	182,171	13,857	165,640
		Europe	„	7,830	132,382	4,125	57,846	8,524	89,988
		U.S.A.	„	—	—	4,584	64,071	1,300	16,200
Trocas shell		Australia	„	387	16,633	447	26,115	294	13,332
Ivory nuts		Australia	„	1,196	13,576	800	7,821	642	5,155
Timber	...	Australia sup.	feet	1,069,499	9,700	1,932,107	9,276	786,639	4,683

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for Europeans is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 5d. a pound, the best joints costing 2s. 3d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small

block; bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. Chickens in Tulagi are 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs, and cows can be reared and vegetables can be grown.

The average wage of a native labourer is £12 a year and all found. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays.

Every employer of native labour, whether under contract or non-contract, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers which are subject to Government inspection.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. There are seven Mission Societies, five of which (the Melanesian Mission, the Roman Catholic Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission, and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission), undertake elementary education at their principal schools without any assistance from Government. The Government gives a grant of £50 each to two of these Societies who maintain a technical school.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The *S.S. Mataram* calls direct from Australia every six weeks, and after proceeding through the Group returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy from His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia to which the Protectorate Government contributes an annual sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct overseas shipments were made in British, French, Swedish, and United States steamers during 1930-1.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication is also available by S.S. *Mitiaro*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company, the motor vessel *Kurimaraui*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations, Limited, and the motor vessel *Doris*, owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Islands), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a Foreman of Works, a Head Chinese Mechanic, and a Head Native Mechanic. Six Chinese mechanics are employed, and seven natives.

The principal public works carried out during the year 1931 were the reconstruction of Tulagi wharf and the repair and painting of existing buildings, etc.

The marine works undertaken to the end of December, 1931, included the rebuilding of the a/v. *Tulagi* and the installation in her of a crude oil Gardner engine, repairs to the a/v. *Gizo* and installation in her of a crude oil Gardner engine, and minor repairs to other Government vessels and boats.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and all other Judges for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, are by virtue of their offices Judicial Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty. The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners (usually seven in number), and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The principal legal officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is a Judicial Commissioner.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, and the Deputy Commissioners have civil jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity, and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a criminal jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years' penal servitude or upwards. With some exceptions, all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order, the High Commissioner has certain special powers for deportation of persons whose proceedings appear to endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding, Armed Constabulary. He is assisted by a European Sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of two Sergeants-Major and 131 other ranks. They are distributed in detachments throughout the Districts.

The prison buildings at Tulagi consist of one European cell, four other cells, and four associated wards. The cubic feet of space for each prisoner during the hours of sleep are 280 cubic feet.

There are prisons at District Headquarters, constructed of local building materials; where short-sentence prisoners are confined. These buildings are adequate in size and well ventilated.

Juvenile offenders are segregated. There is no probationary system.

The health of the prisoners in Tulagi has been good. The total number of deaths during 1931 was five, four from the effects of dysentery and one from malaria. The daily average number of prisoners in Tulagi gaol was 94·72.

The health of the prisoners in the District prisons has been very good and no deaths are reported.

The criminal statistics of the Protectorate for the year 1930-1 are as follows :—

1.—CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Crimes reported or known to the Police.</i>			<i>Persons proceeded Against.</i>				
	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Not brought before a Magisterial Court for want of Evidence.</i>	<i>Brought before a Magisterial Court.</i>	<i>Number.</i>			<i>Apprehended.</i>	<i>Summoned.</i>
				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
1. Homicide	7	—	7	7	7	—	7	—
2. Other offences against the person.	103	—	103	107	103	4	38	69
3. Praedial larceny ...	19	—	19	19	18	1	8	11
4. Other offences against property.	49	6	43	52	51	1	18	34
5. Other crimes	478	2	476	516	499	17	331	185

2.—PERSONS DEALT WITH IN DISTRICT COURTS BEFORE A DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Crime or Offence.	Discharged.			Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Num-ber.	For want of prosecution.	On the Merits of the Case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison-ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1. Homicide	8	1	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	95	1	12	4	78	55	—	21*	2
3. Praedial larceny ...	19	1	2	—	16	9	—	7	—
4. { Malicious injury to property. Offences against property (other than praedial lar- ceny and malicious injury to property)	70	4	13	8	45	26	—	12	7
5. Other crimes, viz. :— Offences against the Masters and Ser- vants laws, includ- ing laws relating to labourers under contract.	125†	1	10	—	113	19	—	89	5
Offences against Re- venue laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	282	6	4	—	272	149	—	113	10
Miscellaneous minor offences.	274‡	2	13	—	256	73	—	135	48

* 1 also 12 strokes with birch.

† 1 under adjournment at 31/12/31.

‡ 3 under adjournment at 31/12/31.

Lunacy Orders—Tulagi—2.

Of the total number of persons brought before the Court, 20 were females.

3.—PERSONS TRIED BEFORE A JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

Crime or Offence.	Number.	In Circuit Court.	In Resident Magistrates' Court.	Sex.		Not tried (Nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before Trial.	Acquitted.	Total.	Sentences.					
				M.	F.					Death.	Penal Servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1.—Murder of wife or concubine	3*	1	2	3	—	—	1	—	2	2†	—	—	—	—	1
Murder of child ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	†
Murder other than wife, concubine, or child.	3	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	2
Manslaughter ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.—Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	1§
3.—Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.—Offences against property with violence to the person.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property.	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.—Other crimes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* One found guilty of murder of wife and child.

† One death sentence commuted.

‡ Detained during His Majesty's pleasure.

§ Also bound over.

|| One stands adjourned at 31/12/31.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

The following legislation has been enacted in the Protectorate during the year 1931 :—

King's Regulations.

- No. 1 of 1931 ... Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Regulation 1930 (prescribes fee for each arm).
- No. 2 of 1931 ... Customs (Amendment) Regulation 1931.
- No. 3 of 1931 ... Plants and Seeds Control (Amendment) Regulation 1931.
- No. 4 of 1931 ... Customs (Amendment) Regulation 1931.
- No. 5 of 1931 ... Residential Tax Regulation 1931 (to provide for tax on non-natives).
- No. 6 of 1931 ... Licence Amendment Regulation 1931.
- No. 7 of 1931 ... Drugs and Poisons (Amendment) Regulation 1931.
- No. 8 of 1931 ... Quarantine (Amendment) Regulation 1931.

Proclamations by**His Excellency The High Commissioner.**

- No. 6 of 1931 ... Under Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907. (Prohibits importation of yellow phosphorus matches).
- No. 7 of 1931 ... Under Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907. (Amends import duties).
- No. 8 of 1931 ... Under Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907. (Re-imposes duty on copra).
- No. 9 of 1931 ... Under Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907. (Prohibits export of silver and bronze coin).
- No. 10 of 1931 ... Under the Pacific (Fugitive Criminals Surrender) Order in Council 1914. (Prescribes times in case of Colombia).
- No. 11 of 1931 ... Under Quarantine Regulation 1930. (Prohibits introduction of certain microbes, germs, etc.).
- No. 12 of 1931 ... Under Quarantine Regulation 1930. (Prohibits introduction of second-hand clothing except under certain conditions).
- No. 13 of 1931 ... Under Quarantine Regulation 1930. (Proclaims certain ports of entry).
- No. 16 of 1931 ... Under Drugs and Poisons Regulation 1928. (Applies Regulation to dihydromorphinone).

Proclamations by Resident Commissioner.
Rules.

5. Postal (Amendment) Rules 1931.
6. Plant Diseases and Pest Rules 1931.
7. Postal (Amendment No. 2) Rules 1931.

There are no factories in the Protectorate. There is at present no law relating to compensation for accidents nor any general legislative provision for sickness or old age.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure :—

		<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
		£	£
1929	...	79,935	91,632
1930	...	76,678	68,807
1931	...	62,728	67,816

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1931, was £61,098, of which sum £10,000 was earmarked against advances made in London by the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Public Debt :—Nil.

Taxation :—

<i>Description of main heads of Taxation.</i>								<i>Yield.</i>	
								£	£
Customs—									
Import duties	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,029		
Export duties	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,408		
									40,437
Licences and Internal Revenue									12,811
Ship Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,269		
Station Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,094		
Native Tax	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,647		
Fees of Court and Office, etc.									2,124
Hospital Fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	665		
Harbour Light Dues	...	...	...	...	...	...	579		
Post Office									1,294
Sale of Stamps	...	...	...	...	...	...	745		
Telegraph Receipts	...	...	...	...	...	...	312		
Rents and Royalties									2,927
Land rent	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,620		
Interest on Investments									1,465
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...		666	
Land	...	...	...	...	...	...		145	

Customs Tariff:—

Ale, beer, cider, perry, hop, ginger, and other beers	3s. per gal.
Cartridges and cases, rifle and revolver	100 per cent.
Ditto sporting	25 per cent.
Cigarettes	15s. per 1,000.
Cigars	7s. 6d. per lb.
Dynamite and similar explosives	1s. per lb.
Iron, galvanized	£2 per ton.
Kerosene, petrol, and oils in bulk	3d. per gal.
Powder, sporting	6d. per lb.
Rifles and revolvers	£1 each.
Spirits	£1 6s. per gal.
Spirits, methylated	2s. per gal.
Tobacco, cut	5s. per lb.
Tobacco, stick, cake, or leaf	2s. 9d. per lb.
Timber, dressed, over 2 inches wide	2s. per 100 s.f.
Timber, undressed, ditto	1s. 6d. per 100 s.f.
Wines containing less than 40 per cent. proof spirit	4s. per gal.
Wines containing 40 per cent proof spirit or over	£1 6s. per gal.
Wines, sparkling, containing less than 40 per cent proof spirit	10s. per gal.
Wines, sparkling, containing 40 per cent proof spirit or over	£1 6s. per gal.
Fireworks and matches	25 per cent.
Articles other than those enumerated above and those	
admitted free of duty	12½ per cent.
	<i>ad valorem.</i>

Imports have been considerably reduced during the year as a result of the depression in the market of the principal commodity—copra.

The value of exports has been reduced from the same cause.

The timber industry has also been curtailed owing to the loss of the Australian market due to the effects of financial depression in that country.

Excise and Stamp Duties:—Nil.

*Poll Tax:—*A native tax is payable by male natives between the ages of 16 and 60. The rate payable varies according to the capacity of the people to pay and is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Islands of Gela, Savo, Ysabel, Russell Islands,			
Gizo, and Shortlands, per caput	1	0	0
Guadalcanal	10	0	
San Cristoval, Malaita, and Santa Cruz	5	0	

The amount received from this source during the year ended 31st March, 1931, was £8,647.

The tax is collected by the District Officers of the various Districts.

There is no land hunger and every native has ample ground for his own use and for the support of his family and there are as a rule communal coco-nut groves or fishing traps.

CHAPTER XVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the first week in October, severe earthquakes were felt in the central and eastern islands of the Protectorate, which continued with varying severity throughout the month. On the 4th of October a tidal wave, which followed an earthquake on San Cristoval Island, completely destroyed eighteen native villages and rendered the inhabitants homeless, of whom 48 died from the effects. No Europeans lost their lives though two suffered from injuries. The area was visited immediately by the District Officer who, with the assistance of a Roman Catholic priest, rendered first aid to the injured. The Resident Commissioner left for the area on hearing of the disaster.

Damage to the value of approximately £5,000 was caused by earthquakes in other islands of the Group.

During the year an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connexion with investigations regarding diseases of the coco-nut palm. This work had been made possible by a grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate.

F. N. ASHLEY,
Resident Commissioner.

24th January, 1932.
Solomon Islands.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9d. (10d.).
The Growing Dependence of British Industry upon Empire Markets. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 23.)	1s. (1s. 1d.).
Insect Infestation of Stored Cacao. December, 1929. (E.M.B. 24.)	1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).
British Industries and Empire Markets. March, 1930. (E.M.B. 25.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Canadian Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the Deterioration in Transit of Imported Canadian Fruit, 1927-29. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 30.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
The Production of Tung Oil in the Empire. June, 1930. (E.M.B. 31.)	1s. (1s. 1d.).
Report on the Cultivation, Treatment and Prospects of Rice in British Guiana. (E.M.B. 32.)	1s. (1s. 3d.).
The Dissemination of Research Results among Agricultural Producers. (E.M.B. 33.)	1s. (1s. 4d.).
The Demand for Empire Butter. (E.M.B. 34.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
The Relative Values of Cod Liver Oils from various sources. (E.M.B. 35.)	1s. (1s. 4d.).
The Behaviour and Diseases of the Banana in Storage and Transport. (E.M.B. 36.)	1s. (1s. 3d.).
The Demand for Canned Fruits. (E.M.B. 37.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Report of Proceedings of the Imperial Wool Research Conference, 1930.	1s. (1s. 3d.).
Fruit Supplies in 1930. (E.M.B. 38.)	1s. (1s. 3d.).
Changes in the Demand for Butter. (E.M.B. 39.)	1s. (1s. 1d.).
Report on Development of Agriculture in the Bahamas. (E.M.B. 40.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Empire Marketing Board. May, 1931, to May, 1932. (E.M.B. 53.)	1s. (1s. 3d.).
A Preliminary Report on an investigation into the Control of West Indian Insect Pests. (E.M.B. 42.)	1s. (1s. 5d.).
Recent Advances in Pasture Management. (E.M.B. 43.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Dairy Research. (E.M.B. 44.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Transport and Storage of Bananas with special reference to Chilling. (E.M.B. 45.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery.	2s. (2s. 2d.).
Wool Quality: A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth.	£1 1s. (£1 1s. 9d.).
Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927-30. (E.M.B. 46.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings.	2s. 6d. (2s. 11d.).

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1932

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last Empire census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Boudeuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time, many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated.

Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was :—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	1
Total					94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year, though the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom may be officials.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of Municipal or Local Government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

Births and deaths are accurately recorded in the Districts of Guadalcanal, Eastern Solomons, N'Gela and Savo, Gizo, and Shortlands. Owing to infrequency of communication 1932 records have not yet been received from all these Districts.

The following table gives the latest figures available :—

District.	Population.	1931.		1932.	
		Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
Guadalcanal ...	14,264	474	532	—	—
Eastern Solomons ...	7,806	172	342	228	180
N'Gela and Savo ...	5,300*	69	121	—	—
Gizo ...	6,424	141	148	153	89
Shortlands ...	1,031	—	—	17	14

* This figure is taken from 1931 Census Statistics.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION.

District.	1931.		1932.	
	Births. per 1,000.	Deaths. per 1,000.	Births. per 1,000.	Deaths. per 1,000.
Guadalcanal ...	33·3	37·4	—	—
Gizo ...	19·6	20·6	21·3	12·4
Eastern Solomons...	22·7	45·2	30·8	24·3
N'Gela and Savo ...	13·0	22·8	—	—
Shortlands ...	—	—	13·0	10·7

No reliable records are kept from which infantile mortality rates can be calculated.

PROTECTORATE NATIVE CENSUS, 1931.

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
N'Gela and Savo ...	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080
Ysabel and Cape Marsh	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215
Malaita ...	12,374	12,163	603	285	7,708	6,934	40,067
E. Solomons ...	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750
Rennell and Bellona Islands.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500
Sikiana ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483
Totals ...	28,955	25,008	5,405	3,721	12,306	11,001	93,415

IV.—HEALTH.

The year was an unusually favourable one from a health point of view.

There was an epidemic of varicella (chickenpox) in the early part of the year and an outbreak of very mild influenza in the third quarter.

Both diseases caused temporary disability only. There was no attendant mortality.

Hospital admissions showed a marked decline from previous years.

Yearly admissions to the Tulagi Hospital.

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Europeans ...	88	65	49	36	44
Asiatics ...	15	28	13	19	12
Natives ...	743	557	603	468	361

Birth and death records are available from the districts of Gizo, Eastern Solomons, and Shortlands, and show a total of 398 births as against 283 deaths. It is believed that all districts will show a favourable margin of births over deaths for the year.

The favourable statistics resulting from a year of freedom from epidemics of significance again demonstrate the fact that it is such epidemics and particularly such diseases as influenza, whooping cough, measles, and pneumonia resulting therefrom, that are factors of major importance when deaths exceed births.

Prevalent Diseases.

Malaria is endemic. The usual type is the malignant tertian, but benign tertian and quartan fever also occur.

Tuberculosis is present in all parts of the Group. The disease is believed to be slightly on the increase although reliable statistics are not available.

The native dietary is unfavourable in regard to tuberculosis. It is mainly carbohydrate, poor in proteins and fats and in the fat-soluble vitamins. It is also of low nutritive value.

Apart from this, natives have considerable natural resistance to tuberculosis, and cases which come early under treatment sometimes do very well.

Leprosy.—It is becoming evident that this disease is far more prevalent among the natives than it has been known to be in the past.

The disease is present in Malaita, N'Gela, Guadalcanal, Ysabel, Gizo District, and Eastern Solomons. No cases have been reported from Choiseul or Faisi. Santa Cruz is doubtful.

Of the lepers in the Protectorate approximately 75 are receiving treatment in leper colonies (chiefly the Melanesian Mission colony on Malaita) or hospitals, and about 50 are receiving out-patient treatment by Government and Mission medical officers.

Treatment is purely voluntary on the part of the patients and great difficulty is experienced in persuading them to persist with treatment.

Yaws.—This disease, which is almost universal amongst natives, is receiving energetic treatment. 21,628 injections of neo-arsphenamine were given during the year by the Yaws Officer and Government and Mission medical officers, and this total ignores the injections given by non-medical missionaries from whom no reports are received.

Native Labour.

The deaths among indentured labourers were the lowest on record.

Table of Deaths among Indentured Labour.

				Number	Deaths
Year.		Labourers.	of Deaths.	per 1,000.	
1927	...	6,115	83	13	
1928	...	6,016	83	13	
1929	...	5,171	58	11	
1930	...	5,363	50	9	
1931	...	4,301	26	6	
1932	...	3,927	17	4.3	

A marked decline in the death-rate has occurred during the past four years. It is believed that this is due in large measure to the effects of the yaws and hookworm campaign and the general improvement in health which has resulted from it.

Native labourers are fed in accordance with the ration scale laid down by the Labour Regulation of 1921 and the Labour (Amend-

ment) Regulation of 1923. The ration is adequate and deficiency diseases have not occurred.

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood, to withstand earthquakes, and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European construction consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light-wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1932, the Protectorate exported the following products:—

	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Estimated Value.</i>
		£
Copra	21,209 tons	137,843
Ivory nuts	1,108 „	8,818
Trocas shell	462 „	19,103
Bêche-de-mer	15½ „	1,400
Green snail shell	93 „	1,412
Timber	1,098,340 sup. feet	4,943
		£173,519

Most of the copra was produced by companies.

Ivory nuts are grown in a state of nature and sold by natives to traders.

Timber is exported by a company operating at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, and also a private planter in the Shortland Islands District.

Trocas and green snail shell is fished for by natives and sold to traders.

Bêche-de-mer is gathered by a few Japanese under contract to a company trading in the Protectorate and is exported by them.

All the produce mentioned above is exported, none being consumed in the Protectorate.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole available labour supply for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, contracted and non-contracted. Conditions of employment under the contract system are controlled by regulations.

Natives may be recruited for periods not exceeding two years at wages not below £12 per annum for a male adult and £6 per annum for a male young person. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purpose of domestic service.

The strength of the labour force employed throughout the Protectorate is approximately 2,000 contract labourers and 1,000 non-contract labourers.

Natives cultivate in gardens for their own use yams, taro, sweet potatoes, panna, bananas, and other vegetable foodstuffs. The extent of cultivation is regulated by the food requirements of the natives, and foodstuffs are not in general grown for marketing purposes.

Coconuts are not planted systematically by the natives but groves, the produce of which is used largely for food purposes, are to be found in the vicinity of most villages.

The amount of copra produced from native sources is estimated at 3,000 tons per annum. It is purchased from the natives by European or Asiatic traders and either sold to one of the larger commercial firms who control their own shipping facilities or consigned to the European market via Sydney.

Most plantations are stocked with cattle, partly for food purposes, but mainly for the purpose of keeping down grass and weeds on the cultivated areas.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the years 1930, 1931, and 1932 are as follows :—

		<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
		£	£
1930	...	248,307	353,441
1931	...	215,269	304,310
1932	...	157,491	176,554

Imports.

		<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>Other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
		£	£	£
1930	...	31,245	163,719	53,343
1931	...	29,618	130,375	55,276
1932	...	16,619	105,929	34,943

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Country of Origin.</i>		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>1930.</i>		<i>1931.</i>		<i>1932.</i>	
				<i>Value.</i>		<i>Value.</i>		<i>Value.</i>	
				£		£		£	
Bags and sacks.	India	...	doz.	37,218	16,716	28,220	10,639	61,852	10,921
Biscuits (plain).	Australia	...	lb.	782,890	15,535	547,877	10,390	445,256	7,722
Drapery ...	Australia	...	...	—	7,018	—	3,244	—	3,614
	China...	...	...	—	2,712	—	2,922	—	2,551
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	10,679	—	7,406	—	4,098
Hardware	Australia	...	...	—	3,474	—	3,576	—	2,678
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	2,048	—	1,000	—	775
Machinery	Australia	...	...	—	5,209	—	1,755	—	1,941
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	1,679	—	1,986	—	2,007
	U.S.A.	...	...	—	1,328	—	1,367	—	545
Meats(Prsd.)	Australia	...	lb.	452,443	14,380	335,301	11,378	254,948	7,116
	New Zealand	...	„	80,319	2,931	25,024	1,051	14,297	525
Kerosene ...	U.S.A.	...	gal.	99,014	7,835	59,029	4,054	23,171	1,542
	Borneo	...	„	5,474	413	28,309	1,179	18,911	938
Motor fuel	Borneo	...	„	3,772	396	1,992	193	23,362	1,099
	U.S.A.	...	„	62,075	6,208	88,803	6,420	26,907	1,792
Paints ...	Australia	...	tons	31	3,231	20	1,850	17	1,458
	United Kingdom	...	„	6	23	10½	1,082	5	380
Rice ...	Burma	...	„	621	10,102	1,102	16,256	460	4,907
	China...	...	„	35	588	42	660	17	192
	Australia	...	„	—	—	—	—	658	7,358
Tobacco ...	India	...	„	1,233	20,715	200	3,059	64	831
	U.S.A.	...	lb.	128,707	17,219	100,057	13,124	69,170	10,841

Exports.

		<i>Australia.</i>	<i>Europe.</i>	<i>United States of America.</i>
		£	£	£
1930	...	230,903	58,137	64,071
1931	...	197,624	90,296	16,200
1932	...	122,485	50,194	2,750

Commodity.	Destination.	Quantity.	1930.		1931.		1932.	
			Value.	£	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copra ...	Australia	tons	12,591	182,171	13,857	165,640	13,671	86,597
	Europe	"	4,125	57,846	8,524	89,988	7,263	48,496
	U.S.A.	"	4,584	64,071	1,300	16,200	275	2,750
Trocas shell	Australia	"	447	26,115	294	13,332	457	18,862
Ivory nuts	Australia	"	800	7,821	642	5,155	928	7,336
Timber ...	Australia	sup. feet	1,932,107	9,276	786,639	4,683	1,098,340	4,943

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block; bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s. to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs, and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages of Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from 45 to 50 hours per week.

Europeans employed in commercial offices receive wages at the rate of about £18 to £30 per month, the average hours of work not exceeding 40 hours per week.

The average wage of a native labourer is £12 a year and all found. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service or under verbal monthly or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers and they are subject to Government inspection.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. Each of the five Mission Societies operating in the Protectorate (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelic Mission, the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and the Marist Mission) provides elementary education at its principal schools without financial assistance from the Government. In two cases, however, the Government made grants of £50 each to assist schools where technical education, though rudimentary, was being imparted.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.**Shipping.**

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The S.S. *Mataram* calls direct from Australia every 5½ weeks, and after proceeding through the Group returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, Norwegian, Swedish, Japanese, and United States steamers during 1931-32.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1931-32:—

					<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	...	16	36,155
Japanese	...	...	...	1	4,263
Swedish	...	...	...	2	6,257
United States of America	...	...	...	1	2,429
Norwegian	...	...	...	1	4,117

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamer S.S. *Mataram*, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication is also available by S.S. *Mitiaro*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company, Limited, the motor vessel *Kurimarau*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, and the motor vessel *Durour*, owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Islands), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamer, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by the small inter-island vessels belonging to the Companies mentioned above or by chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary

postal duties. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the term of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issuable for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a Foreman of Works, a Head Chinese Mechanic, and a Head Native Mechanic. Three Chinese mechanics and eight natives are employed.

The principal public works carried out during the year 1932 were the reconstruction of the Bond Store at Shortlands Station, the reconstruction of the Native Labour Office at Tulagi, the removal and re-erection of the Native Hospital from Su'u, Malaita, to Auki Station, and the removal of the District Officer's house from Maka, Malaita, to Tulagi, where it is in process of re-erection. Repairs and painting of existing buildings were carried out as usual. A new navigation light was installed at Bungana Island to replace the old one which was worn out.

The old Government Residency at Tulagi, which had become uninhabitable owing to ravages of termites, was pulled down.

Many minor repairs were effected to Government vessels and boats.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.**Justice.**

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no appeal in criminal cases, but all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100 must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Departments are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary. He is assisted by two European officers, a Sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of one senior Sergeant-Major, one Sergeant-Major and 123 other Ranks. The Constabulary are distributed between the Headquarters at Tulagi and the seven outlying districts of the Protectorate. The native prisons staff consists of 15 warders and one wardress at the Tulagi Central Prison and each of the district prisons have one warder with the exception of Auki, where a wardress is also employed.

The prison buildings at Tulagi consist of one European and four other cells and there are four association wards. Each prisoner has 280 cubic feet of air space during sleeping hours.

The district prisons are built of native materials and they are well ventilated. They are surrounded by barbed wire stockades in the same manner as the Central Prison.

Juvenile offenders are segregated. There is no probationary system.

The health of the prisoners both at Tulagi and in the district prisons has been good. There have been two deaths from natural causes during the course of the year (one from dysentery and the other from tuberculosis). The daily average number of prisoners in the Central Prison was 96·89.

1.—CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS
PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Crimes reported or known to the Police.</i>			<i>Persons proceeded against.</i>				
	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Not brought before a Magis-terial Court for want of Evidence.</i>	<i>Brought before a Magis-terial Court.</i>	<i>Number.</i>			<i>Appre-hended.</i>	<i>Sum-moned.</i>
				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
1. Homicide	4	—	4	4	3	1	4	—
2. Other offences against the person.	65	2	62 ^a	65	62	3	42	23
3. Praedial larceny ...	39	—	39	36	36	—	21	15
4. Other offences against property.	57	2	52 ^b	64	63	1	39	25
5. Other crimes	271	1	270	307	289	18	72	235

^a 1 under investigation.

^b 3 under investigation

2.—PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Crime or Offence.	Discharged.			Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Num-ber (total).	For want of prosecution.	On the Merits of the Case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison-ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1. Homicide	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	65	1	3	14 ^a	47	31	—	13	3
3. Praedial larceny ...	36	—	—	10	26	22	—	3	1
4. { Malicious injury to property. Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and mal- icious injury to property). }	64	5	7	7	45	30	1	14	—
5. Other offences, viz.:— Offences against the Master and Ser- vants laws, inclu- ding laws relating to labourers under contract.	113	—	11	—	102	42	—	57	3
Offences against Re- venue laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relati g to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	59	—	10	—	49	7 ^b	—	38	4
Miscellaneous minor offences.	135	1	17	—	117	60	2	51	4

^a 1 tried in 1933.^b 2 twelve strokes for escape.

3.—PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Crime or Offence.	Total.	Before a Jud. Com.	Before a Dep. Commissioner.	Sex.		Not tried (Nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before Trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.						
				M.	F.				Total.	Sentences.					
										Death.	Penal Servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Bound over or disposed of.
1.—Murder of wife or concubine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder of child ...	7 ^c	7	—	6	1	—	—	—	7	5 ^b	—	2 ^a	—	—	—
Murder other than wife, child, or concubine.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.—Attempted murder ...	3 ^d	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	1 ^d	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ..	13 ^d	8	5	13	—	—	—	1	12	—	1	11	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	10	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	—	—	—
3.—Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.—Offences against property with violence.	7	3	4	7	—	—	—	—	7	—	2	5	—	—	—
Other offences against property.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.—Other crimes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

a { 1 found guilty of manslaughter.
 1 found guilty of concealment of birth.
b 1 lunatic criminal.
c 3 committed for trial in 1931.
d 1 committed for trial in 1931.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following legislation has been enacted in the Protectorate during the year 1932 :—

No. 1 of 1932.—Postal (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 2 of 1932.—Pensions (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 3 of 1932.—Bills of Sale (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 4 of 1932.—Land Registration (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 5 of 1932.—Red Cross (Restriction on Trade Use) Regulation 1932.

No. 6 of 1932.—Customs (Simplification of Formalities) Regulation 1932.

No. 7 of 1932.—Registration of United Kingdom Patents (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 8 of 1932.—Minimum Wage Regulation 1932.

No. 9 of 1932.—Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

No. 10 of 1932.—Postal (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation 1932.

No. 11 of 1932.—Licence (Amendment) Regulation 1932.

Proclamations by**His Excellency the High Commissioner.**

No. 1 of 1932.—Under the Pacific (Fugitive Criminals Surrender) Order in Council, 1914 (Prescribes periods in case of Monaco).

No. 2 of 1932.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907 (Prohibits import of tear gas weapons).

No. 4 of 1932.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907 (Imposes and amends import duties).

No. 5 of 1932.—Under the Pacific (Fugitive Criminals Surrender) Order in Council, 1914. (Prescribes periods in case of Cuba).

No. 6 of 1932.—Under the Plants and Seeds Control Regulation 1929 (Prohibits importation of plants from certain places).

No. 7 of 1932.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907 (Prohibits importation of Alsations, and of other dogs without permit).

No. 10 of 1932.—Under the Quarantine Regulation 1930 (Proclaims Quarantine Stations).

**Rules made by the Resident Commissioner with the Assent
of the High Commissioner.**

The Quarantine (Local Traffic) Rules 1932.

There are no factories in the Protectorate. There is at present no law relating to compensation for accidents nor any general legislative provision for sickness or old age.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure :—

			<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
			£	£
1930	...	...	76,678	68,807
1931	...	...	62,728	67,816
1932	...	...	56,744	55,323

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1932, was £62,519.

Public Debt :—Nil.

Taxation :—

<i>Description of main heads of Taxation.</i>							<i>Yield.</i>	
							£	£
Customs—								
Import duties	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,278	
Export duties	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,653	
								31,931
Licences and Internal Revenue								13,553
Ship Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,118	
Station Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	
Native Tax	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,550	
Fees of Court and Office, etc.								1,773
Hospital Fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	310	
Harbour Light Dues	...	...	...	...	...	...	579	
Post Office								1,106
Sale of Stamps	...	...	...	...	...	...	612	
Telegraph Receipts	...	...	...	...	...	...	288	
Rents and Royalties								2,891
Land rent	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,714	
Interest on Investments								2,865
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...		1,083
Land	...	...	...	...	...	...		85

Customs Tariff :—

Ale, beer, cider, perry, hop, ginger, and other beers ...	...	3s. per gal.
Cartridges and cases, rifle and revolver ...	...	100 per cent.
Ditto sporting ...	...	25 per cent.
Cigarettes ...	...	15s. per 1,000.
Cigars ...	...	7s. 6d. per lb.
Dynamite and similar explosives ...	...	1s. per lb.
Iron, galvanized ...	...	£2 per ton.
Kerosene, petrol, and oils in bulk ...	...	3d. per gal.
Powder, sporting ...	...	6d. per lb.
Rifles and revolvers ...	...	£1 each.
Spirits ...	...	£1 6s. per gal.
Spirits, methylated ...	...	2s. per gal.
Tobacco, cut ...	...	5s. per lb.
Tobacco, stick, cake, or leaf ...	...	2s. 9d. per lb.
Wines containing less than 40 per cent. proof spirit ...	...	4s. per gal.
Wines, sparkling, containing less than 40 per cent proof spirit	...	10s. per gal.
Wines containing 40 per cent proof spirit or over ...	...	£1 6s. per gal.
Wines, sparkling, containing 40 per cent proof spirit or over	...	£1 6s. per gal.
Fireworks and matches ...	...	25 per cent.
Articles other than those enumerated above and those	...	12½ per cent.
admitted free of duty ...	...	<i>ad valorem.</i>

Imports have been considerably reduced during the year as a result of the depression in the market of the principal commodity—copra.

The value of exports has been reduced from the same cause.

*Excise and Stamp Duties :—*Nil.

*Poll Tax :—*A native tax is payable by male natives between the ages of 16 and 60. The rate payable varies according to the capacity of the people to pay and is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Islands of Gela, Savo, Ysabel, Russell Islands, Gizo, and Shortlands, per caput ...	1	0	0
Guadalcanal ...	10	0	
San Cristoval, Malaita, and Santa Cruz ...	5	0	

The amount received from this source during the year ended 31st March, 1932, was £9,550.

The tax is collected by the District Officers of the various Districts.

There is no land hunger, and every native has ample ground for his own use and for the support of his family; there are as a rule communal coconut groves or fishing traps.

A non-native tax of £1 per annum is payable by all males over 18 and under 60 years of age. The amount received during the year ended 31st March, 1932, was £471.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The year under review proved singularly uneventful in comparison with the previous year, during which much havoc and suffering were caused by earthquakes, tidal-waves, and a severe outbreak of influenza.

The copra industry, upon which the financial stability of the Protectorate is almost wholly based, showed a few slight signs of revival during the year, but future prospects still remain uncertain and obscure and agriculturists were everywhere compelled by stress of circumstances to continue to practise the strictest economy, the further development and progress of the Protectorate being thereby unavoidably restricted.

His Honour the Resident Commissioner, Mr. F. N. Ashley, proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom on the 23rd July. The Secretary to the Government, Captain N. S. B. Kidson, assumed duty as Acting Resident Commissioner from that date until the return to duty on the 13th August of the First District Officer, who acted as Resident Commissioner to the end of the year.

The Advisory Council sat on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th November, all members being present throughout the proceedings.

The Agricultural Committee, which was created in 1931, continued to function actively during the year, in all six meetings being held, at which a variety of matters connected with the agricultural problems and progress of the Protectorate were discussed and considered.

The Residency at Tulagi, which had done duty as the official residence of the local Head of the Administration for some twenty-five years, was finally condemned by the Public Works Department as unsafe for occupation on the 16th May and was demolished within the following few weeks. The construction of a new Residency had not commenced before the close of the year.

APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. Dr. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder & Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ongtong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups. Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowde.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills & Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before The Royal Geographical Society, 1888).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before The Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928-9, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
* Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121.	9d. (10d.).
British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery.	2s. (2s. 2d.).
Wool Quality : A Study of the Influence of various contributory factors, their significance and the technique of their measurement. Cloth.	£1 1s. (£1 1s. 9d.).
Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927-30. (E.M.B. 46.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
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Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings.	2s. 6d. (2s. 11d.).
Further Changes in the Demand for Butter, July, 1928, and July, 1931. Report of an Investigation into the Retail Marketing of Butter in Nottingham. (E.M.B. 48.)	1s. (1s. 1d.).
Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 49.)	1s. (1s. 3d.).
The Demand for Honey. (E.M.B. 50.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
Milk Price Margins. A Report on the Differences between Producers' Prices, Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Liquid Milk in certain Large Cities in Different Countries. (E.M.B. 51.)	1s. (1s. 2d.).
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last Empire census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

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In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Bouleuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated.

Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was :—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year, though the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom may be officials.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

Births and deaths are recorded in the following Districts, Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomons, Shortlands and Ysabel.

The following table gives the latest figures available :—

<i>District.</i>	1931.		1932.		1933.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	474	532	419	358	507	327
Gizo ...	141	148	153	39	203	95
Nggela and Savo ...	69	121	137	96	—	—
Eastern Solomons ...	172	342	228	180	187	137 (9 months)
Shortlands ...	—	—	17	14	25	24
Ysabel ...	—	—	—	—	172	72

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES (PER 1,000).

<i>District.</i>	1931.		1932.		1933.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	33·3	37·7	29·5	25·2	35·2	23·0
Gizo ...	19·6	20·6	21·3	12·4	24·1	13·2
Nggela and Savo ...	13·0	22·8	25·8	18·1	—	—
Eastern Solomons...	22·7	45·2	30·1	23·6	24·7	18·1 (9 months)
Shortlands ...	—	—	13·0	10·7	19·2	18·4
Ysabel ...	—	—	—	—	30·1	12·6

PROTECTORATE NATIVE CENSUS, 1931.

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nggela and Savo ...	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomons ...	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikaiana ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian

IV.—HEALTH.

Health conditions during the year were good. It will be noted that all Districts from which vital statistics are available have recorded an increase of population during this and the previous year; a condition which has not previously existed since records have been available.

The improvement may perhaps be attributed to the fact that there was no significant epidemic disease during the year.

Yearly admissions to the Tulagi Hospital.

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Europeans ...	88	65	49	30	44	38
Asiatics ...	15	28	13	19	12	12
Natives ...	743	557	603	468	361	434

Prevalent Diseases.

Poliomyelitis (epidemic) occurred in the early part of the year but caused no mortality.

An outbreak of beriberi occurred among the labourers in the Russell Group. There were eleven deaths before the disease was brought under control by alteration of the ration issue.

Mild influenzal outbreaks occurred in the first and fourth quarters of the year.

Among the diseases always present in the Protectorate may be mentioned malaria, bacillary dysentery, tuberculosis, hookworm, and leprosy. There was no unusual occurrence of any of these diseases during the year under review.

Native Labour.

With the exception of the outbreak of beriberi mentioned above, health of the labour was satisfactory.

The first case of beriberi occurred in April and the last case on 26th August. The disease was confined to the estates of one company only and to estates in the Russell Group. The outbreak followed a long spell of abnormal rainfall and of consistent bad weather which probably prevented the natives from obtaining the usual supplementary foods—fish, small game, and native vegetables.

To check the outbreak an "emergency" ration was issued and conditions became normal.

Apart from the outbreak of beriberi there is nothing special to report in regard to the health of plantation labour, which has been generally good and care of the labourers well maintained.

The ration scale is laid down by the Labour Regulation of 1921 and had been considered adequate until this unfortunate outbreak of beriberi.

Table of deaths among Indentured Labour.

Year.			Number Labourers.	Deaths of Deaths.	Deaths per 1,000.
1928	...	...	6,016	83	13
1929	...	...	5,171	58	11
1930	...	...	5,363	50	9
1931	...	...	4,301	26	6
1932	...	...	3,927	17	4.3
1933	...	...	3,583	28	7.8

Of these deaths, eleven were due to beriberi, five to pneumonia.

Quarantine.

None of the major quarantinable diseases was brought to the Protectorate during the year and no quarantine restrictions were imposed on any vessel.

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood, to withstand earthquakes, and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European construction consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the

leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1933, the Protectorate exported the following products :—

	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Estimated value.</i>
		£
Copra	22,256 tons	153,426
Ivory nuts	644 „	4,591
Trocas shell	400 „	19,036
Beche-de-mer	19 „	2,135
Green snail shell	91 „	1,248
Timber	1,204,134 sup. feet	5,903
		£186,339

The copra market, upon which everything in the Protectorate depends, did not improve during the year and in fact became worse. To all intents and purposes copra is the sole industry of the Group upon which the Administration relies, directly or indirectly, for its revenue; the European planters and the natives for their income; the commercial firms for their sales; and the shipping firms for cargo. At the price prevailing during the year, no firm or private planter could produce copra at a profit and the only satisfaction was that the copra, when produced, found a sale however low the price.

Coconuts are not planted systematically by the natives but in groves, the produce of which is used largely for food purposes and

the balance, only, sold. Owing to the low price the natives have been reluctant to produce copra for sale. The amount of copra produced from native sources is estimated this year to have not exceeded 300 tons. This was purchased from the natives by European or Asiatic traders and sold either to one of the larger commercial firms, who control their own shipping, or consigned to European markets, via Sydney.

Most of the copra exported was produced on their own plantations by the companies operating in the Protectorate.

A number of the coconut plantations have been allowed to revert to bush.

Most plantations are stocked with cattle, partly for local food purposes but mainly for the purpose of keeping down grass and weeds on the cultivated areas.

The export duty on copra, being on a sliding scale, went down as low as ninepence a ton towards the end of the year.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour supply for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, contracted and non-contracted. Conditions of employment under the contract system are controlled by the laws of the Protectorate. Natives may be signed on for periods not exceeding two years at wages not below £12 per annum for an adult male and £6 per annum for a youth, in both cases board, lodging, and clothing has also to be provided. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purpose of domestic service.

Non-contract labour for plantation work is not extensively employed.

Ivory nuts are grown in a natural state and sold by the natives to traders; the market is small and fluctuates.

The price of trocas shell improved during the year whilst green snail shell remained steady. This enabled the natives to fish their reefs and obtain a fair return for their labour.

Beche-de-mer is gathered by a few Japanese under contract to a company trading in the Protectorate.

All the above-mentioned produce is exported, none being consumed in the Protectorate.

Timber is exported by a company operating at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, and by a private individual in the Shortland Islands District. The market for timber improved as conditions improved in Australia, and as import duties were reduced in that country as a result of the Ottawa Conference.

The natives cultivate for their own use yams, taro, sweet potatoes, panna, bananas, and other vegetable foodstuffs. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining work and money the area cultivated has

increased considerably, but foodstuffs, as a rule, are not grown for marketing purposes

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the years 1931, 1932, and 1933 are as follows:—

			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
			£	£
1931	...	...	215,269	304,310
1932	...	...	157,491	176,554
1933	...	...	168,261	189,888

Imports.

			<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>Other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
			£	£	£
1931	...	...	29,618	130,375	55,276
1932	...	...	16,619	105,929	34,943
1933	...	...	15,921	114,878	37,462

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Country of Origin.</i>			1931.		1932.		1933.	
				<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
					£		£		£
Bags and sacks.	India	...	doz.	28,220	10,639	61,852	10,921	33,590	11,278
Biscuits (plain).	Australia	...	lb.	547,877	10,390	445,256	7,722	271,269	3,964
Drapery ...	Australia	...	...	—	3,244	—	3,614	—	4,633
	China...	...	...	—	2,922	—	2,551	—	2,896
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	7,406	—	4,098	—	4,759
Hardware	Australia	...	...	—	3,576	—	2,678	—	3,630
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	1,000	—	775	—	527
Machinery	Australia	...	...	—	1,755	—	1,941	—	5,060
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	1,986	—	2,007	—	809
	U.S.A.	...	...	—	1,367	—	545	—	406
Meats(Prsd.)	Australia	...	lb.	335,301	11,378	254,948	7,116	301,579	7,182
	New Zealand	...	..	25,024	1,051	14,297	525	6,268	259
Kerosene ...	U.S.A.	...	gal.	59,029	4,054	23,171	1,542	32,992	2,242
	Borneo	...	..	28,309	1,179	18,911	938	32,234	1,357
Motor fuel	Borneo	...	..	1,992	193	23,362	1,099	42,187	1,597
	U.S.A.	...	..	88,803	6,420	26,907	1,792	24,904	1,814
Paints ...	Australia	...	tons	20	1,850	17	1,458	21	2,132
	United Kingdom	..	..	10½	1,082	5	380	3	155
Rice ...	Burma	...	..	1,102	16,256	460	4,907	494	5,788
	China...	...	..	42	660	17	192	48	478
	Australia	...	..	—	—	658	7,358	124	1,521
	India	...	..	200	3,059	64	831	566	6,729
Tobacco ...	U.S.A.	...	lb.	100,057	13,124	69,170	10,841	71,600	11,495

Exports.

			<i>Australia.</i>	<i>Europe.</i>	<i>United States of America.</i>
			£	£	£
1931	...	...	197,624	90,296	16,200
1932	...	...	122,485	50,194	2,750
1933	...	...	120,371	68,421	Nil

Commodity.	Destination.		1931.		1932.		1933.	
			Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Copra ...	Australia	tons	13,857	165,640	13,671	86,597	12,916	86,649
	U.S.A.	"	1,300	16,200	275	2,750	—	—
	Europe	"	8,524	89,988	7,263	48,496	9,340	66,777
Trocas shell	Australia	"	294	13,332	457	18,862	393	18,750
	New Hebrides	"	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	—	—
	Europe	"	—	—	—	—	7	286
	Mandated Solomons	"	—	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	225	—	—
Ivory nuts	Australia	"	642	5,155	928	7,336	469	3,334
	Europe	"	51	308	180	1,482	142	1,017
	Mandated Solomons	"	31	190	—	—	33	240
Green snail shell.	Australia	"	106	1,909	73	1,252	57	942
	Europe	"	—	—	20	160	34	306
Beche-de-mer	Australia	"	21	2,457	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,400	19	2,135
Timber ...	Australia sup.	feet	786,639	4,683	1,098,340	4,943	1,204,134	5,903

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block; bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s. to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs, and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages of Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from 45 to 50 hours per week.

The average wage of a native labourer is £12 a year and all found. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service or under verbal, monthly, or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. Each of the five Mission Societies operating in the Protectorate (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission,

the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and the Marist Mission) provides elementary education at its principal schools without financial assistance from the Government. In the case of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, however, the Government made a grant of £50 to assist the Mission school where technical education, though rudimentary, was being imparted.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The S.S. *Mataram* called direct from Australia every 5½ weeks, and after proceeding through the Protectorate returned to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, Norwegian, and German vessels during 1933.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1932-33 :—

						<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	...	...	22	39,352
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	3	10,599
German	...	...	...	...	2	1,834

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars and motor lorries are used, ribbon tracks have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication was maintained by the regular mail vessel s.s. *Mataram*, and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication was also available by s.s. *Mitiaro*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, and the motor vessel *Kurimarau*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by the small inter-island vessels belonging to the Companies mentioned above or by chance

auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money-order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issuable for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a Foreman of Works, a Head Chinese Mechanic, and a Head Native Mechanic. Three Chinese mechanics and eight natives are employed.

The principal public works carried out during the year 1933 were the erection of a magazine for ammunition at the Police barracks, an asylum for criminal and non-criminal lunatics, the completion of the re-erection at Tulagi of the District Officer's house that was removed from Maka, Malaita, and the erection of a new Government Residency to take the place of the one that was pulled down during the previous year. The latter piece of work was nearing completion at the end of December, 1933. Repairs to existing buildings, Government vessels and boats were also carried out.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Commissioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Department are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary. He is assisted by two European officers, a Sub-Inspector of Constabulary, and a Gaoler. The native personnel of the Armed Constabulary consists of one senior Sergeant-Major, one Sergeant-Major, and 122 other ranks. The Constabulary are distributed between the Headquarters at Tulagi and the seven outlying districts of the Protectorate. The native prisons staff consist of 15 warders and one wardress at the Tulagi Central Prison and each of the district prisons has one warder with the exception of Auki, where a wardress is also employed.

The prison buildings at Tulagi consist of one European and four other cells and there are four association wards. Each prisoner has 280 cubic feet of air space during sleeping hours.

The district prisons are built of native materials and they are well ventilated. They are surrounded by barbed wire stockades in the same manner as the Central Prison.

Juvenile offenders are segregated. There is no probationary system.

The health of the prisoners both at Tulagi and in the district prisons has been good. There was only one death during the year; a prisoner, sent in from the Russell Group for trial, dying of beri-beri the day after his arrival at Tulagi. The daily average number of prisoners in the Central Prison was 85·18.

1.—CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

Crime.	Crimes reported or known to the Police.			Persons proceeded against.				
	Total.	Not brought before a Magisterial Court for want of Evidence.	Brought before a Magisterial Court.	Number.			Apprehended.	Summoned.
				Total.	M.	F.		
1. Homicide	3	—	3	3	2	1	3	—
2. Other offences against the person.	89	2	87	103	102	1	26	77
3. Praedial larceny ...	9	—	9	11	11	—	4	7
4. Other offences against property.	38	—	38	62	61	1	11	51
5. Other crimes	351	1	350	407	386	21	26	381

2.—PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Crime or Offence.	Discharged.			Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Num- ber (total).	For want of prosecution.	On the Merits of the Case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of
1. Homicide	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	103	—	16	10	77	32	—	41	4
3. Praedial larceny ...	11	—	2	—	9	6	—	2	1
4. { Malicious injury to property. Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and mal- icious injury to property).	15	—	5	1	9	8	—	1	—
	47	—	8	4	35	28	—	6	1
Other offences, viz.:— Offences against the Master and Ser- vants laws, inclu- ding laws relating to labourers under contract.	93	—	4	—	89	12	—	75	2
Offences against Re- venue laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	23	—	2	—	21	3	—	17	1
Miscellaneous minor offences.	291	3	25	—	263	107	—	150	6

3.—PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Crime or Offence.	Total.	Before a Jud. Com.	Before a Dep. Commissioner.	Sex.		Not tried (Nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before Trial	Acquitted.	Convicted.						Bound over or disposed of.	
				M.	F.				Total.	Penal Servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Death.		
1.—Murder of wife or concubine	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1a	—	—	—	—	—	—	1a
Murder of child ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder other than wife, child, or concubine.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.—Attempted murder	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ...	1	1	—	1	—	1b	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	8	7	1	8	—	—	1	2	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	1
3.—Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.—Offences against property with violence.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property.	5	1	4	5	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
5.—Other crimes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

^a Found guilty, but insane.^b Order for trial quashed for uncertainty.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following legislation has been enacted in the Protectorate during the year 1933 :—

No. 1 of 1933.—Forced Labour Prohibition Regulation 1933.

No. 2 of 1933.—Drugs and Poisons (Amendment) Regulation 1933.

No. 3 of 1933.—Prisons (Amendment) Regulation 1933.

No. 4 of 1933.—Native Passes Regulation 1933.

No. 5 of 1933.—Dogs (Amendment) Regulation 1933.

No. 6 of 1933.—Registration of United Kingdom Patents (Amendment) Regulation 1933.

No. 7 of 1933.—Residential Tax (Amendment) Regulation 1933.

No. 8 of 1933.—Customs Duties Regulation 1933.

Proclamations by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

No. 1 of 1933.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907 (prescribes certain export duties).

No. 2 of 1933.—Under the Pacific (Fugitive Criminals Surrender) Order in Council 1914 (prescribes periods in case of 'Iraq).

No. 3 of 1933.—Under Lunatic Asylum Regulation 1928 (proclaims Public Lunatic Asylum at Tulagi).

No. 4 of 1933.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation 1907 (revocation of certain proclamations).

Rules made by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

Plant Diseases and Pests (Amendment) Rules 1933 (under the Plant and Seeds Control Regulation 1929).

Land Registration Fees (Amendment) Rules 1933 (under the Solomons Land Registration Regulation 1918).

Native Passes (Amendment) Rules 1933 (under the Native Passes Regulation 1933).

Rules made by the Resident Commissioner with the assent of the High Commissioner.

Prisons (Additional Rule) Rules 1933 (under the Prisons Regulation 1932).

There are no industrial manufactories in the Protectorate. There is at present no law relating to compensation for accidents nor any general legislative provision for sickness or old age.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.*Revenue and Expenditure:—*

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1931	...	...	...	...	62,728	67,816
1932	...	...	...	...	56,744	55,323
1933	...	...	...	...	58,541	53,423

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1933, was £67,637.

Public Debt.—Nil.

Taxation:—

<i>Description of main heads of Taxation.</i>	<i>Yield.</i>
£	£
Customs—	
Import duties	26,632
Export duties	8,458
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	12,504
Ship licences	1,011
Station licences	882
Native tax	8,649
Fees of Court and Office etc. ...	1,717
Hospital fees	346
Harbour Light dues	696
Post Office	1,060
Sale of stamps	572
Telegraph receipts	239
Rents and Royalties	2,746
Land rent	2,607
Interest on Investments	3,184
Miscellaneous	952
Land	100

Customs Tariff :—

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>British Preferential Rate.</i>	<i>General Rate.</i>
1	Ale, beer, porter, cider, perry, hop, ginger, and other beers per gallon	3s.	5s.
2	Animals and birds, living	Free.	Free.
3	Arms and accoutrements for any recognised rifle club or public institution ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
4	Articles, other than tobacco and spirits, arriving by post, being for personal use of addressee, when the duty thereon would not exceed 6d. Provided that the Collector of Customs may, at his discretion, determine that more than one parcel addressed to the same or several persons may be treated as a single parcel and duty shall be assessed accordingly	Free.	Free.
5	Bags and sacks for exporting produce ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
6	Ballast, ships', stone or sand	Free.	Free.
7	Biscuits, hard and plain ... ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
8	Boats, launches, and vessels, not including engines, under 15 tons net register, punts, and lighters ad valorem	12½ per cent.	25 per cent.
9	Boats, launches, and vessels of 15 tons or greater not register :— For the first 100 tons net or fraction thereof For each additional ton or fraction thereof up to 150 tons net Exceeding 150 tons net	Free. Free. Free.	60s. 20s. Free.
10	Books and periodicals ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
11	Cartridges and cartridge cases, rifle and revolver ad valorem	100 per cent.	125 per cent.
12	Cartridges and cartridge cases, sporting ad valorem	25 per cent.	50 per cent.
13	Casks ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
14	Cement ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
15	Church materials, furniture, and requisites, imported by religious bodies, including materials for the erection, maintenance, or repair of any church, and articles for use in connection with the celebration of divine worship ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
16	Cigarettes per 1,000	15s.	20s.
17	Cigars, including wrappers ... per pound	7s. 6d.	10s.
18	Coal and Coke	Free.	Free.
19	Coin of the Realm	Free.	Free.
20	Cylinders for importing ammonia or gas ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
21	Dental instruments and appliances other than furniture ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
22	Diving apparatus and parts thereof ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
23	Drainpipes, earthenware ... ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>British Preferential Rate.</i>	<i>General Rate.</i>
24	Drugs and medicinal substances (other than those containing spirits), including patent and proprietary medicines, pharmaceutical preparations, anaesthetics, emulsions, ointments, liniments, lotions, medicinal oils, chemicals, vaccines, vaccine lymph, and serums and other anti-toxins, tinctures of the British Pharmacopoeia, and appliances for surgical and medicinal purposes for actual use as such ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
25	Explosives, including dynamite, gelignite, blasting powder, and similar explosives, and ingredients for making such goods per pound	1s.	2s.
26	Fireworks (including squib, cracker, throw-down, serpent, rocket, maroon, lance, wheel, Chinese fire, Roman candle, or other article specially adapted for the production of pyrotechnic effects) ... ad valorem	25 per cent.	37½ per cent.
27	Flour and sharps ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
28	Fruit, fresh	Free.	Free.
29	Goods imported by and for the use of His Majesty's Government and Services ...	Free.	Free.
30	Guano	Free.	Free.
31	Iron, galvanised, plain or corrugated sheets per ton	40s.	80s.
32	Machinery, machines, and implements, and component parts, as follow :— (a) Agricultural machines and implements, including ploughs, sowers, scoops, draining tools, harrows, scarifiers, cultivators, hoes, digging forks, scythes, spades, stump extractors, demerara shares, shovels, rakes, bottoming tools, sickles, and handles for the said machines and implements made of wood and not fitted ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
	(b) Industrial machines and implements including evaporators for fruit, copra, tea, cocoa, and like products, to include the building if an absolute part of the drier, fibre, cleaning, ginning, spinning, and weaving machines, shellers, mills, corn crackers, coffee pulpers, hullers, polishers, winnowers, scutchers, presses for baling produce, oil presses, motor tractors, horse or machine mowers, sprayers, and pumps ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
	(c) Engines and machinery, including electrical refrigerating, and sawing machines, steam engines, boilers, oil engines, hot air engines, and marine engines ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>British Preferential Rate.</i>	<i>General Rate.</i>
32— <i>cont.</i>	(d) Printing machinery, type and litho- graphic appliances ... ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
	(e) Railway and tramway equipment, in- cluding rails, iron and steel, sleepers, fishplates, switches, crossings, turn- tables, and bolts and nuts imported with and belonging to such equipment ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
	(f) Such other machinery, machines, and implements as the High Commissioner may, by proclamation from time to time specify ... ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
33	Manures and fertilizers ...	Free.	Free.
34	Matches ... ad valorem	25 per cent.	50 per cent.
35	Meats, including fish, poultry, and game, fresh or chilled ...	Free.	Free.
36	Medals and decorations, Government, to be worn by persons in the Protectorate ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
37	Music, printed ... ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
38	Oils :—		
	(a) Benzine, petrol, or motor spirit per gallon	3d.	3d.
	(b) Benzoline, naphtha, and similar oils per gallon	3d.	3d.
	(c) Crude or residual, such as may be used as fuel for Diesel or other engines ad valorem	12½ per cent.	12½ per cent.
	(d) Kerosene, illuminating, if of 100 degrees or more closed flash test per gallon	3d.	3d.
	(e) Kerosene, power, if of less than 100 degrees closed flash test per gallon	3d.	3d.
	(f) Oil consumed as fuel by foreign-going vessels while in the waters of the Protectorate ...	Free.	Free.
	(g) Oils, mineral, of all kinds, in bulk, not otherwise enumerated per gallon	3d.	3d.
	(h) Oils of all kinds other than mineral, in bulk, not otherwise enumerated per gallon	3d.	6d.
	(i) Oils of all kinds in bottles not otherwise enumerated ... ad valorem	12½ per cent.	25 per cent.
39	Packages and containers, inside and outside, in which goods subject to duty at specific rates or goods exempt from duty, or both, are ordinarily and actually packed for transport, provided that the Collector of Customs is satisfied that such packages or containers are of no substantial value for any other purpose ...	Free.	Free.
40	Packages and containers which have been used in the export of products of the Protectorate, when returned empty ...	Free.	Free.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>British Preferential Rate.</i>	<i>General Rate.</i>
41	Passenger's baggage and effects as prescribed in Proclamation No. 10 of 1929 or amendments thereof	Free.	Free.
42	Pictures, photographs, and works of art ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
43	Plants for cultivation	Free.	Free.
44	Powder, sporting per pound	6d.	1s.
45	Produce, island, imported for re-export ...	Free.	Free.
46	Pyrethrum roseum ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
47	Rice per ton	Free.	40s.
48	Rifles and revolvers, not otherwise enumerated each	20s.	40s.
49	School materials, furniture, and requisites, imported by religious bodies, including materials for the erection, maintenance, or repair of any school, and articles imported for purposes of instruction in any school or for use in connection with the curriculum of any school or for free distribution or award to scholars ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
50	Seeds for propagation and cultivation ...	Free.	Free.
51	Show cards, patterns, cut samples, and advertising matter of no commercial value ...	Free.	Free.
52	Spirits of all kinds and spirituous mixtures of which the strength can be ascertained by Sykes's hydrometer or other approved method, proof or overproof, per proof gallon	26s.	39s.
53	Spirits of all kinds and spirituous mixtures of which the strength can be ascertained by Sykes's hydrometer or other approved method, underproof ... per liquid gallon	26s.	39s.
54	Spirits and spirituous mixtures not otherwise enumerated per liquid gallon (Case spirits: reputed contents of two, three, four or more gallons shall be charged: Two gallons and under, as two gallons; over two gallons and not exceeding three gallons, as three gallons; over three gallons and not exceeding four gallons, as four gallons, and so on for any greater quantity contained in any case). (The maturity and strength of spirits on importation must conform to certain standards prescribed by the High Commissioner—at present prescribed in Proclamation No. 5 of 1928).	26s.	39s.
55	Spirits, methylated per gallon	2s.	4s.
56	Spraying compounds	Free.	12½ per cent.
57	Surgical instruments and appliances other than furniture	Free.	12½ per cent.
58	Tobacco, cut per pound	5s.	7s. 6d.
59	Tobacco, stick, cake, or leaf ... per pound	2s.	2s. 9d.
60	Tobacco stalks	Free.	Free.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Article</i>	<i>British Preferential Rate.</i>	<i>General Rate.</i>
61	Tombstones and memorials	Free.	12½ per cent.
62	Timber ad valorem	12½ per cent.	25 per cent.
63	Uniform fittings for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides being the property of and imported by their Associations, as follow :—hats and caps, lanyards, whistles, knives, belts, scarfs, flags, banners and badges, knots, totems, and medals ad valorem	Free.	12½ per cent.
64	Uniforms, official, civil, and for members of any recognised rifle club or public institution, and parts thereof	Free.	Free.
65	Vegetables, fresh	Free.	Free.
66	Veterinary instruments and appliances other than furniture	Free.	12½ per cent.
67	Wines, still, containing less than 40 per cent. of proof spirit per gallon	4s.	6s.
68	Wines, still, containing 40 per cent. or more of proof spirit per gallon	26s.	39s.
69	Wines, sparkling, containing less than 40 per cent. of proof spirit per gallon	10s.	15s.
70	Wines, sparkling, containing 40 per cent. or more of proof spirit per gallon	26s.	39s.
71	Goods not otherwise enumerated	12½ per cent.	25 per cent.

Imports have been considerably reduced during the year as a result of the depression in the market of the principal commodity—copra.

Excise and Stamp Duties.—Nil.

Poll Tax.—A native tax is payable by male natives between the ages of 16 and 60. The rate payable varies according to the capacity of the people to pay and is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Islands of N'Gela, Savo, Ysabel, Russell Islands,			
Gizo, and Shortlands, per caput	1	0	0
Guadalcanal	10	0	
San Cristoval, Malaita, and Santa Cruz	5	0	

The amount gathered from this source during the year ended 31st March, 1933, was £8,649.

The tax is collected by the District Officers of the various districts.

There is no land hunger, and every native has ample ground for his own use and for the support of his family; there are as a rule communal coconut groves or fishing traps.

A non-native tax of £1 per annum is payable by all males over 18 and under 60 years of age. The amount received during the year ended 31st March, 1933, was £430.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Upon several occasions Japanese ships have entered the waters during the year for the purpose of collecting shell. The No. 1 *Taiko Maru* ran on to the Roncador Reef on 29th March, 1933, and became a total wreck, her crew of 35 managed to make shore after a journey of 80 miles in open boats.

There have been a few earth tremors and a somewhat violent shake occurred in June in the Gizo District which continued for two days.

Mr. J. C. Barley, First District Officer, left the Protectorate on 16th September, 1933, on promotion to Resident Commissioner, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

The Advisory Council was held on the 25th and 26th October, 1933, all the members being present.

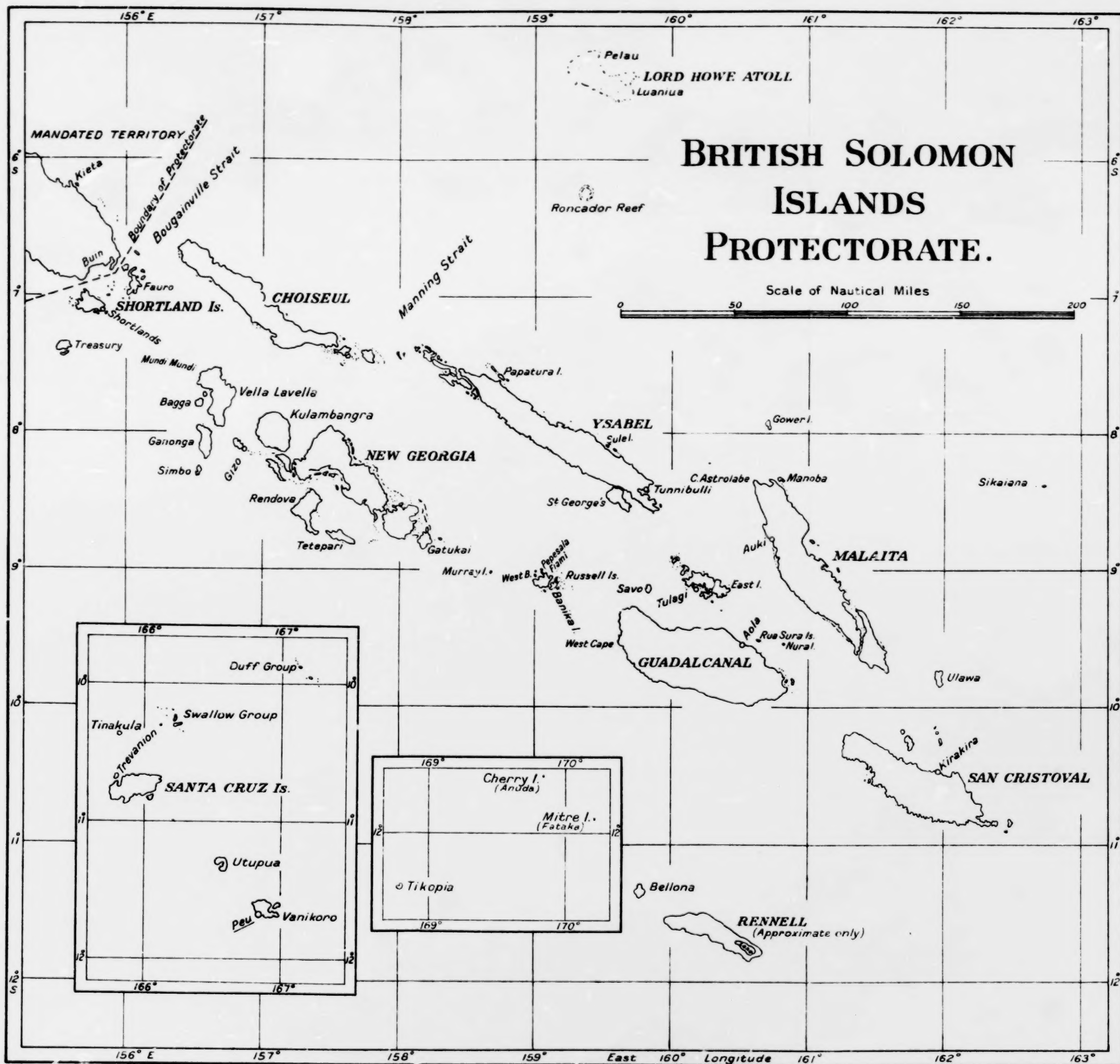
APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups. Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowke.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moreby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928-9, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
* Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931.
Minutes of Evidence.

[Cmd. 3993.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 11d.).
[Colonial No. 68.] 5s. (5s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings.
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference).

[Cmd. 3717.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
[Cmd. 3718.] 4s. (4s. 4d.).
[Cmd. 3716.] 3d. (3½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings.
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings.

[Cmd. 3628.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
[Cmd. 3629.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1s. (1s. 2d.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2s. (2s. 3d.).

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

Obtainable from

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

At the Addresses on the Title Page of this Report.

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last Empire census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Bouleuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated.

Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was :—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year, though the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom may be officials.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

Births and deaths are recorded in the following Districts:—Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomons, Shortlands and Ysabel.

The following table gives the latest figures available:—

<i>District.</i>	1932.		1933.		1934.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	419	358	507	327	416	302
Gizo ...	153	89	203	95	137	111
Nggela and Savo ...	137	96	170	76	113	100
Eastern Solomons ...	228	180	187*	137*	150	156
Shortlands ...	17	14	25	24	27	26
Ysabel ...	—	—	172	72	144	116

* For nine months only.

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES (PER 1,000).

<i>District.</i>	1932.		1933.		1934.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	29·5	25·2	35·2	23·0	29·0	21·1
Gizo ...	21·3	12·4	24·1	13·2	18·7	15·1
Nggela and Savo ...	25·8	18·1	32·5	14·6	21·4	19·0
Eastern Solomons...	30·1	23·6	24·7*	18·1*	20·0	20·8
Shortlands ...	13·0	10·7	19·2	18·4	20·7	19·4
Ysabel ...	—	—	30·1	12·6	24·8	20·0

* For nine months only.

It will be noted that all Districts from which vital statistics are available have recorded an increase of population for the years 1932 and 1933, a condition which has not previously existed since records have been available. This is mainly attributed to the fact that there was no serious epidemic during these years.

For the year 1934, all Districts, with the exception of the Eastern Solomons, which showed a slight decrease, also recorded an increase in population.

PROTECTORATE NATIVE CENSUS, 1931.

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nggela and Savo ...	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomons ...	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikiana ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian

IV.—HEALTH.

Health conditions were not so favourable during the year as during the previous two years. Epidemics of influenza and dysentery occurred accounting for many deaths among the natives. With the exception of these epidemics, there was no increase of sickness among the natives.

Among Europeans, there were five deaths in the Protectorate.

Yearly Admissions to the Tulagi Hospital.

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Europeans ...	65	49	30	44	38	36
Asiatics ...	28	13	19	12	12	11
Natives ...	557	603	468	361	434	653

Hospital admissions of natives showed a considerable increase for the year. This is due to the fact that more natives are coming in for treatment to the Tulagi Hospital from other islands.

Prevalent Diseases.

Two outbreaks of influenza occurred—in the first and last quarters of the year. Both outbreaks were attended by many deaths among the natives.

An epidemic of dysentery occurred in the last quarter of the year. The heaviest death-rate was on Malaita where 28 children were reported to have died during this epidemic.

Among the endemic diseases in the Protectorate may be mentioned malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, yaws, and hookworm. There was no unusual occurrence of any of these diseases during the year under review.

Native Labour.

Despite the adverse conditions prevailing throughout the year affecting the primary industry of the Protectorate, a small increase in the number of men engaged as labourers under indenture is shown for the year 1934 in comparison with the previous year. The numbers are 1,168 in 1934 and 1,103 in 1933.

There was no recurrence of beriberi among the indentured labourers. The "emergency" ration introduced last year during the outbreak of beriberi was withdrawn and the labourers have been fed on the usual ration scale laid down by the Labour Regulation of 1921.

During the year, the health of the labourers was satisfactory and the care of them was well maintained.

There has been no epidemic disease among native labourers, but unfortunately within the space of two months six indentured labourers died at Vanikoro, the timber leasehold of the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Co. Pty. Ltd., of Melbourne. A qualified medical practitioner was employed by the company. It is considered that the deaths were due to respiratory diseases, probably pneumonia, brought about by exceptionally bad weather conditions.

Twenty-three indentured labourers have died during 1934.

Table of deaths among Indentured Labour.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Labourers.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Deaths per 1,000.</i>
1928	...	6,016	83	13.0
1929	...	5,171	58	11.0
1930	...	5,363	50	9.0
1931	...	4,301	26	6.0
1932	...	3,927	17	4.3
1933	...	3,583	28	7.8
1934	...	3,578	23	6.4

Of these deaths, pneumonia and pulmonary diseases were responsible for eleven, or 48 per cent.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour supply for all undertakings. Employment is of two

categories, contracted and non-contracted. Conditions of employment under the contract system are controlled by the laws of the Protectorate. Natives may be signed on for periods not exceeding two years. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purpose of domestic service.

Non-contract labour for plantation work is not extensively employed.

The minimum-wage-fixing machinery for indentured labourers is contained in certain clauses of local legislation that is designed to meet the whole question of native employment in the Protectorate, and under which all matters connected therewith are considered. The wage-fixing clauses have been amended with effect from the 1st December, 1934, and the minimum wages for the indentured labourer have been reduced to £12 per annum and £6 per annum for an adult, and £3 per annum for a young person engaged for work scheduled by law as suitable to his age. Provision has been made for the protection of agreements in existence before the 1st December. Board, lodging, and clothing have also to be provided.

The reduction of the minimum wage is due to the straitened circumstances of the main industry of the Protectorate.

Quarantine.

None of the major quarantinable diseases was brought to the Protectorate during the year, and no quarantine restrictions were imposed on any vessel.

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood, to withstand earthquakes, and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European construction consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses

are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1934, the Protectorate exported the following products :—

	Quantity.	Estimated value. £
Copra	21,119 tons	70,379
Ivory-nuts	1,085 „	6,841
Trocas shell	467 „	25,210
Bêche-de-mer	13 „	1,632
Green snail shell	171 „	2,113
Timber	735,419 sup. feet	2,935
		£109,110

The copra market, upon which so much in the Protectorate depends, continued to fall during the first half of the year until a record low price was reached, a price which made the production at a profit out of the question. At the close of the year it assumed generally a much more hopeful outlook when prices rose slightly but enough to stimulate interest, and the small planters were further encouraged when the local firms offered a price double that previously paid for copra delivered at Tulagi.

Prior to this rise the general position of small companies and private planters was desperate. They were almost all in debt to one or other of the large trading companies at Tulagi who held mortgages over the plantations.

Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Ltd., produce exclusively a superior hot-air-dried copra and to a considerable extent the Malaita Company do the same.

There has always been a difference in the price between hot-air-dried copra and the poor quality smoke-dried copra produced by the smaller companies and the natives, but the difference in the past although considerable, scarcely justified the outlay neces-

sary to convert the smoke dryers into hot-air dryers, so long as there was a market for smoke-dried copra. From January to October, however, the difference in price steadily but surely drew further and further apart until the conversion of the dryers became a matter of serious consideration, but as the prices increased at the end of the year the difference of price between the two classes of copra closed even more abruptly.

Every assistance, other than actual cash assistance, has been given to the planters by reducing the export tax, remission of Crown rents in necessitous cases, and reduction of the minimum labour wage.

A number of the smaller plantations have been abandoned and the natives were reluctant to produce copra from their groves for the price offered.

The export duty on copra, which is on a sliding scale of 5 per cent. of the price paid in Tulagi, went down as low as 3*d.* a ton in April.

The principal feature of trade during the year other than in copra was the attention given to trocas shell during the first half of the year when prices rose in May and June to £70 a ton. The competition among non-natives was so keen that some natives were fortunate enough to receive £56 a ton for shell in small quantities and as much as £60 for bulk quantities. The price fell to £58 at the end of the year. The amount of shell exported was slightly above that of the previous year, but almost identical with the amount in 1932, though its value was 50 per cent. more.

Ivory-nuts grow wild. The natives collect the nuts and sell them to non-native traders. The market is small and not dependable.

In June owing to the abnormal Japanese competition in cotton and rayon goods which was assisted by the depreciation of the yen, the British Government were compelled to introduce trade restrictions and to enact legislation to assist the British cotton trade. This was done in the Protectorate by imposing a system of quotas on foreign imports based on the average imports for the years 1927-31.

The preferential tariff on goods imported into the Protectorate which was adopted in December last year has worked smoothly.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the years 1932, 1933, and 1934 are as follows:—

			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
			£	£
1932	...	...	157,491	176,554
1933	...	...	168,261	189,888
1934	...	...	158,776	111,669

Imports.

			<i>From United Kingdom.</i>	<i>From Other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
			£	£	£
1932	...	...	16,619	105,929	34,943
1933	...	...	15,921	114,878	37,462
1934	...	...	18,357	101,508	38,911

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Unit.	1932.		1933.		1934.		
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
				£		£		£	
Bags and sacks.	India	...	doz.	61,852	10,921	33,590	11,278	32,005	10,460
Biscuits (plain).	Australia	...	lb.	445,256	7,772	271,269	3,964	310,114	4,683
Drapery ...	Australia	...	...	—	3,614	—	4,633	—	2,918
	China...	...	...	—	2,551	—	2,896	—	2,399
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	4,098	—	4,759	—	3,003
Hardware	Australia	...	...	—	2,678	—	3,630	—	3,000
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	775	—	527	—	914
Machinery	Australia	...	...	—	1,941	—	5,060	—	6,305
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	2,007	—	809	—	3,039
	U.S.A.	...	...	—	545	—	406	—	342
Meats (preserved)	Australia	...	lb.	254,948	7,116	301,579	7,182	303,493	7,435
	New Zealand	...	„	14,297	525	6,268	259	1,703	80
Kerosene ...	U.S.A.	...	gal.	23,171	1,542	32,992	2,242	41,171	3,042
	Borneo	...	„	18,911	938	32,234	1,357	30,944	1,206
Motor fuel	Borneo	...	„	23,362	1,099	42,187	1,597	33,492	1,447
	U.S.A.	...	„	26,907	1,792	24,904	1,814	33,356	2,312
Paints ...	Australia	...	ton	17	1,458	21	2,132	22	1,856
	United Kingdom	...	„	5	380	3	155	3	136
Rice ...	Burma	...	„	460	4,907	494	5,788	607	6,048
	China...	...	„	17	192	48	478	142	1,223
	Australia	...	„	658	7,358	124	1,521	30	365
	India	...	„	64	831	566	6,729	551	5,875
Tobacco ...	U.S.A.	...	lb.	69,170	10,841	71,600	11,495	62,930	9,609

Exports.

			<i>To Australia.</i>	<i>To Europe.</i>	<i>To United States of America.</i>
			£	£	£
1932	...	...	122,485	50,194	2,750
1933	...	...	120,371	68,421	Nil.
1934	...	...	79,752	25,755	Nil.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Commodity.	Destination.	Unit.	1932.		1933.		1934.	
			Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Copra ...	Australia	tons	13,671	86,597	12,916	86,649	13,894	41,440
	U.S.A.	"	275	2,750	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	7,263	48,496	9,340	66,777	6,483	25,339
Trocas shell	Australia	"	457	18,862	393	18,750	445	24,172
	New Hebrides	"	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	—	—	7	286	5	190
	Mandated Solomons	"	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	225	—	—	—	—
Ivory-nuts	Australia	"	928	7,336	469	3,334	790	5,058
	Europe	"	180	1,482	142	1,017	37	210
	Mandated Solomons	"	—	—	33	240	—	—
Green snail shell.	Australia	"	73	1,252	57	942	167	2,059
	Europe	"	20	160	34	306	—	—
Bêche-de-mer	Australia	"	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,400	19	2,135	13	1,582
Timber ...	Australia	sup.feet	1,098,340	4,943	1,204,134	5,903	735,419	2,935

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block; bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s. to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs, and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages of Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from forty-five to fifty hours per week.

The minimum wage of a native labourer is £6 a year and all found. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service or under verbal, monthly, or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. Each of the five Mission Societies operating in the Protectorate (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission,

the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and the Marist Mission) provides elementary education at its principal schools without financial assistance from the Government. In the case of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, however, the Government made a grant of £50 to assist the Mission school where technical education, though rudimentary, was being imparted.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The s.s. *Malaita* called direct from Australia every 5½ weeks, and after proceeding through the Protectorate to the mandated territory of New Guinea via Tulagi, returned to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, American, Danish, and German vessels during 1933-4.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1933-1934 :—

						<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	...	...	19	37,101
Danish	...	...	...	...	1	3,760
German	...	...	...	...	6	5,502
American...	...	...	...	...	1	2,429

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars and motor lorries are used, ribbon tracks have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication was maintained by the regular mail vessel s.s. *Malaita*, and occasionally by auxiliary sailing vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication was also available by the motor vessel *Kurimarau*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by the small inter-island vessels belonging to the company mentioned above or by chance

auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a Foreman of Works, and a Head Chinese Mechanic. Three Chinese mechanics and eight natives are employed.

The principal public works carried out during the year 1934 were the completion of the Residency and the installation of an electric lighting set, the erection of an insectary for the Government Entomologist's use, and the erection of new quarters to take the place of those condemned (and known as No. 18). The latter were nearing completion at the end of 1934. High-speed engines burning crude oil fuel are being installed in the vessels *Wai-ai* and *Veronica*. In both vessels certain repairs and rearrangements were necessary to accommodate the new engines. It is expected that the vessels will be ready about the end of January, 1935. Certain maintenance work was proceeding at Vanikoro when an earthquake practically wrecked the house. In consequence the

District Officer's quarters were not re-erected, and a sago palm-leaf building was erected in their place. Timber from the old building was used for the floor. Repairs to buildings, Government vessels, etc., were also carried out elsewhere in the Protectorate.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Commissioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Department are administered by the Officer Commanding the Armed Constabulary. Throughout the year the European Sub-Inspector has been employed as a District Officer, and a junior officer of the administration has acted as gaoler. The Constabulary performs the dual function of Defence Force and Police. The native personnel, two sergeant-majors and 122 other ranks, has been maintained at full strength, and the number of men of the required physical standard offering themselves as recruits has been plentiful. The detachments at local District Headquarters have been posted to suit requirements. The health of the Force has been very good, and, except for an epidemic of influenza during the last quarter of the year, there have been no cases of serious illness.

Besides the European officers mentioned above, there are 15 native warders at Tulagi prison, and one warder at each of the district prisons. The discipline throughout the year has been satisfactory, and the health of staff and convicts at the Central Prison has been good. Three deaths have occurred, all three taking place among the criminal lunatics in the Asylum. There were 78 convicts at Tulagi on 1st January, 1933, and 66 on 31st December. Three convicts under sentence of death were hanged.

1.—CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

Crime.	Crimes reported or known to the Police.			Persons proceeded against.				
	Total.	Not brought before a Magisterial Court for want of evidence.	Brought before a Magisterial Court.	Number.			Apprehended.	Summoned.
				Total.	M.	F.		
1. Homicide	8*	—	8	7	6	1	7	—
2. Other offences against the person.	96	—	96	105	104	1	59	46
3. Praedial larceny ...	28	—	28	31	23	8	7	24
4. Other offences against property.	92	5	87	126	125	1	27	99
5. Other crimes	322	—	322	373	349	24	64	309

* 1 case of alleged murder found to be suicide.

2.—PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Crime or offence.	Discharged.			Committed for trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Num- ber (total).	For want of prosecution.	On the merits of the case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.
1. Homicide ...	7	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	104	1	15	15	73	39	—	24	2
3. Praedial larceny ...	29	1	3	—	25	13	—	4	8
4. { Malicious injury to property. Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and mal- icious injury to property).	30	—	2	1	27	6	—	2	19
	81†	3	8	11	54	49	—	5	—
Other offences, viz.:— Offences against the Master and Ser- vants laws, inclu- ding laws relating to labourers under contract.	90	—	2	—	88	5	—	82	1
Offences against Re- venue laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	128	—	22	—	106	69	—	37	—
Miscellaneous minor offences.	243‡	6	35	17§	183¶	109	—	55	41

† 5 cases under adjournment.

‡ 2 cases under adjournment.

§ Second offenders (4).

¶ 2 cases under adjournment.

3.—PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Crime or Offence.	Total.	Before a Judicial Commissioner.	Before a Deputy Commissioner.	Sex.		Not tried (nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.						
				M.	F.				Total.	Sentences.					
										Penal servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Death.	Bound over or disposed of otherwise.
1.—Murder of wife or concubine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder of child ...	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder other than wife, child, or concubine.	6	6	6	6	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Manslaughter ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.—Attempted murder ...	1*	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	4	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ...	6	6	6	6	—	—	—	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	3	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
3.—Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.—Offences against property with violence.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property.	5	5	5	5	—	—	—	1	4	3	1	—	—	—	—
5.—Other crimes ...	7	7	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	7

* Criminal Lunatic.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following legislation has been enacted for the Protectorate during the year 1934 :—

No. 1 of 1934.—Licence (Amendment) Regulation, 1934.

No. 2 of 1934.—Registration of United Kingdom Trade Marks Regulation, 1934.

No. 3 of 1934.—United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Regulation, 1934.

No. 4 of 1934.—Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Regulation, 1934.

No. 5 of 1934.—Native Tax (Amendment) Regulation, 1934.

No. 6 of 1934.—Solomons Labour (Amendment) Regulation, 1934.

No. 7 of 1934.—Criminal Law (Amendment) Regulation, 1934.

Proclamations by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

No. 1 of 1934.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation, 1933 (amends Schedule 1 of King's Regulation No. 8 of 1933).

No. 4 of 1934.—Under Pacific Order in Council, 1893 (defines the District of Nggela).

No. 5 of 1934.—Under the Pacific (Fugitive Criminals Surrender) Order in Council, 1914 (prescribes period for surrender of fugitive criminals of Republic of Poland).

No. 6 of 1934.—Under Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Regulation, 1934 (fixes total value of textile goods which may be imported during any period).

No. 8 of 1934.—Under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation, 1907 (prohibits export of munitions, etc., to Bolivia and Paraguay).

Rules made by His Excellency the High Commissioner.

Criminal Procedure (Review of Causes) Rules, 1934 (under the Pacific Order in Council, 1893).

Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Rules, 1934 (under the Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Regulation, 1934).

Rules made by the Resident Commissioner with the approval of the High Commissioner.

Nil.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.*Revenue and Expenditure:—*

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1932	...	...	...	...	56,744	55,323
1933	...	...	...	...	58,541	53,423
1934	...	...	...	...	53,039	56,822

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1934, was £63,854.

Public Debt.—Nil.

Taxation:—

<i>Description of main heads of Taxation.</i>	<i>Yield.</i>
£	£
<i>Customs—</i>	
Import duties	25,309
Export duties	4,372
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	12,706
Ship licences	1,212
Station licences	800
Native tax	8,799
Fees of Court and Office, etc. ...	1,573
Hospital fees	337
Harbour Light dues	620
Post Office	1,065
Sale of stamps	617
Telegraph receipts	243
Rents and Royalties	2,594
Land Rents	2,452
Interest on Investments	2,578
Miscellaneous	1,248
Land	128

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

In 1932 an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connexion with investigations regarding diseases of the coconut palm. This work was only made possible by a generous free grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate. To assist further, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary Limited, made an offer, which was accepted, of £600 a year towards the salary of a second entomologist. The investigation of immature nutfall of coconuts has continued and most of the estates between Shortlands Island in the west and San Cristoval in the east have been visited. The entomological staff is of the opinion that insects are not a primary cause of the poor or dwindling yields of certain areas and evidence has been put forward showing that rainfall is intimately connected with yields.

Various secondary crops, in particular derris, have been investigated, and hopes are entertained that one local variety may prove of commercial value.

An earth tremor of a somewhat severe nature was felt at Vanikoro on 19th July at 7 a.m. Several houses were upset and some damage done. The sea withdrew from the land over a large area but no tidal wave was recorded; the epicentre was probably in the sea some distance south-west of Santa Cruz.

Prospecting for gold is being actively pursued by several parties on the island of Guadalcanal.

Fifteen field surveys were completed during the year before it became necessary for the sake of economy to close down survey work. New district maps are in course of compilation, which although not strictly accurate give more reliable information in some cases than do the existing charts of Choiseul, Malaita, and San Cristoval.

The Advisory Council met on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th of October, 1934. At the meeting it was decided that in future there should be two meetings a year instead of one as formerly.

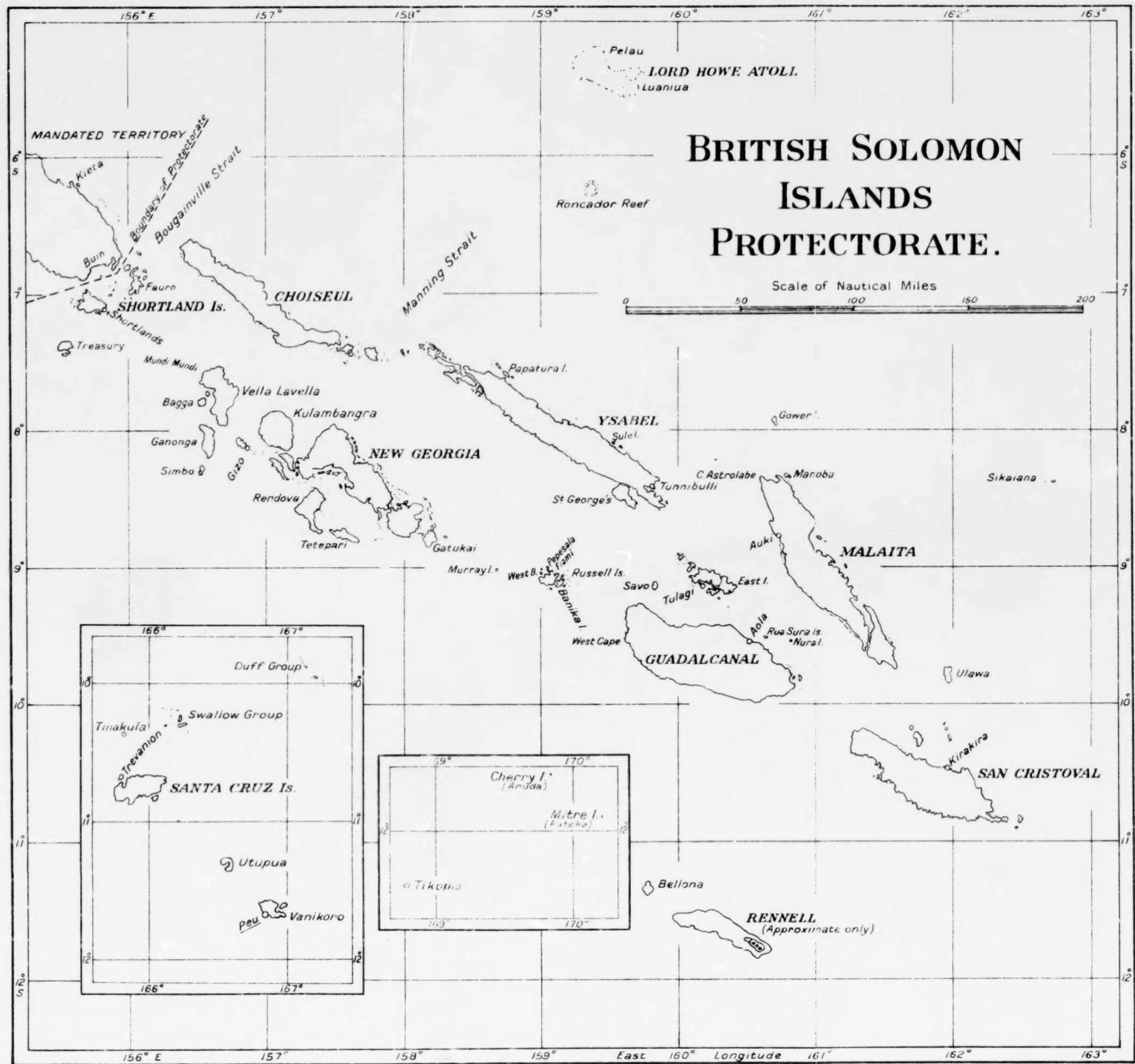
APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups." Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowke.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928-9, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
* Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 11d.).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5s. (5s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4s. (4s. 4d.).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3d. (3½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1s. (1s. 2d.).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2s. (2s. 3d.).

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Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

326737

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE, 1935

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last Empire census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

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In 1767 Captain Carteret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Bouleuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated. Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was :—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year, though the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom may be officials.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

Births and deaths are recorded in the following Districts:—Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomons, Shortlands and Ysabel.

The following table gives the latest figures available:—

<i>District.</i>	1933.		1934.		1935.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	507	327	416	302	455	286
Gizo ...	203	95	137	111	255	150
Nggela and Savo ...	170	76	113	100	104	93
Eastern Solomons ...	187*	137*	150	156	36†	20†
Shortlands ...	25	24	27	26	6†	11†
Ysabel ...	172	72	144	116	127	67

* For nine months only.

† For three months only.

‡ For six months only.

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES (PER 1,000).

<i>District.</i>	1933.		1934.		1935.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	35.2	23.0	29.0	21.1	31.6	19.9
Gizo ...	24.1	13.2	18.7	15.1	30.6	18.0
Nggela and Savo ...	32.5	14.6	21.4	19.0	19.8	17.8
Eastern Solomons...	24.7*	18.1*	20.0	20.8	—	—
Shortlands ...	19.2	18.4	20.7	19.4	—	—
Ysabel ...	30.1	12.6	24.8	20.0	21.9	11.5

* For nine months only.

It will be noted that all Districts, with the exception of Eastern Solomons in 1934, from which vital statistics are available have recorded an increase of population for the years 1933 and 1934, a condition which has not previously existed since records have been available. This is mainly attributed to the fact that there was no serious epidemic during these years.

For the year 1935, all Districts, with the exception of the Shortlands, which showed a slight decrease, also recorded an increase in population.

PROTECTORATE NATIVE CENSUS, 1931.

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Nggela and Savo ...	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomons ...	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikiana ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian.

IV.—HEALTH.

Health conditions were favourable during the year. An epidemic of bacillary dysentery occurred on the island of Nggela. With the exception of this epidemic, there was no increase of sickness among the natives.

Among Europeans, there were two deaths in the Protectorate.

Yearly Admissions to the Tulagi Hospital.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Europeans ...	49	30	44	38	36	36
Asiatics ...	13	19	12	12	11	8
Natives ...	603	468	361	434	653	599

Hospital admissions of natives showed a decrease for the year but remained well above the average of recent years.

Prevalent Diseases.

Apart from the epidemic of dysentery already noted there was no unusual incidence of disease during the year.

Malaria as usual was the chief cause of admission to hospital and of illness. Free quinine was distributed through the agency of medical stations and missionaries to the amount of approximately 100 kilogrammes.

Yaws is universal among the native population. During the year, 9,000 grammes of neo-arsphenamine were used in treatment, and it is estimated that 25,000 injections of this drug were given.

Hookworm was treated by carbon tetrachloride. During the year, 3,475 treatments were administered by the officer dealing with cases of yaws and hookworm.

Other diseases which are prevalent but about which there is nothing special to report are tuberculosis and leprosy. Venereal disease is fortunately rare and syphilis is unknown among the natives.

Native Labour.

A small decrease in the number of men engaged as labourers under indenture is shown for the year 1935 in comparison with the previous year. The numbers are 1,168 in 1934 and 1,122 in 1935.

During the year the health of the labourers was good. There were no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease among them and the death-rate (5.5 per 1,000) was, with the exception of 1932 (4.3 per 1,000), the lowest yet recorded.

There were no deaths from deficiency disease.

Seventeen indentured labourers died during 1935.

Table of deaths among Indentured Labour.

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Number</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
		<i>Labourers.</i>	<i>of Deaths.</i>	<i>per 1,000.</i>
1929	...	5,171	58	11.0
1930	...	5,363	50	9.0
1931	...	4,301	26	6.0
1932	...	3,927	17	4.3
1933	...	3,583	28	7.8
1934	...	3,578	23	6.4
1935	...	3,096	17	5.5

Of these deaths, pneumonia and pulmonary diseases were responsible for four, or 23 per cent.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour supply for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, contracted and non-contracted. Conditions of employment under the contract system are controlled by the laws of the Protectorate. Natives may be signed on for periods not exceeding

two years. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purpose of domestic service.

Non-contract labour for plantation work is not extensively employed.

The minimum-wage-fixing machinery for indentured labourers is contained in certain clauses of local legislation that is designed to meet the whole question of native employment in the Protectorate, and under which all matters connected therewith are considered. The minimum wages for the indentured labourers are at the rate of £6 per annum for an adult and £3 per annum for a young person engaged for work scheduled by law as suitable to his age. Board, lodging, and clothing have also to be provided.

Quarantine.

None of the major quarantinable diseases was brought to the Protectorate during the year, and no quarantine restrictions were imposed on any vessel.

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood, to withstand earthquakes, and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European construction consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to

make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1935, the Protectorate exported the following products :—

	Quantity.	Estimated value.
		£
Copra	18,093 tons	54,013
Ivory-nuts	707 „	3,638
Trocas shell	416 „	24,124
Bêche-de-mer	17 „	1,648
Green snail shell	112 „	1,683
Timber	1,418,984 sup. feet	5,938
		£91,044

During the calendar year 1935 the copra market, which is the mainstay of the Protectorate, improved considerably upon the previous year. There was a fall in price during July, August, and September, but thereafter the market recovered again and the price increased until it reached its peak at the end of the year.

The increase in price served as an inducement to planters to increase their output, which had been considerably reduced during the worst phases of the market.

Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, produce exclusively a superior hot-air dried copra, and Messrs. Malayta Company, Limited, Solomon Islands Development Company, Limited, and Shortland Island Plantations, Limited, produce a considerable quantity of the same high grade copra. The difference in value between this hot-air dried copra and smoke-dried copra would scarcely justify the outlay necessary to convert the smoke-driers of the smaller plantations.

The export duty on copra, which is on a sliding scale of 5 per centum of the price paid in Tulagi, was in January 6s. 6d. per ton, fell in July-September to 4s. 9d. per ton and rose to 8s. per ton in November.

The price paid in Tulagi for trocas shell varied from £56 at the commencement of the year to £80 paid in December.

Ivory nuts grow wild. The natives collect the nuts and sell them to non-native traders. The market is small and not dependable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the financial years ended 31st March, 1933, 1934, and 1935 are as follows:—

			<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
			£	£
1933	...	...	168,261	189,888
1934	...	...	158,776	111,669
1935	...	...	145,939	94,074

Imports.

			<i>From United Kingdom.</i>	<i>From Other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
			£	£	£
1933	...	...	15,921	114,878	37,462
1934	...	...	18,357	101,508	38,911
1935	...	...	22,337	90,946	32,656

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Unit.	1933.		1934.		1935.		
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
				£		£		£	
Bags and sacks.	India	...	doz.	33,590	11,278	32,005	10,460	22,363	7,174
Biscuits (plain).	Australia	...	lb.	271,269	3,964	310,114	4,683	290,684	4,226
Drapery ...	Australia	...	...	—	4,633	—	2,918	—	1,891
	China...	...	...	—	2,896	—	2,399	—	743
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	4,759	—	3,003	—	3,808
Hardware	Australia	...	...	—	3,630	—	3,000	—	1,445
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	527	—	914	—	933
Machinery	Australia	...	...	—	5,060	—	6,305	—	4,607
	United Kingdom	...	...	—	809	—	3,039	—	6,549
	U.S.A.	...	...	—	406	—	342	—	947
Meats (preserved)	Australia	...	lb.	301,579	7,182	303,493	7,435	281,714	6,744
	New Zealand	...	„	6,268	259	1,703	80	5,207	252
Kerosene ...	U.S.A.	...	gal.	32,992	2,242	41,171	3,042	16,654	1,259
	Borneo	...	„	32,234	1,357	30,944	1,206	27,641	979
Motor fuel	Borneo	...	„	42,187	1,597	33,492	1,447	57,233	2,143
	U.S.A.	...	„	24,904	1,814	33,356	2,312	24,810	1,636
Paints ...	Australia	...	ton	21	2,132	22	1,856	28	2,151
	United Kingdom	...	„	3	155	3	136	2	187
Rice ...	Burma	...	„	494	5,788	607	6,048	1,061	10,587
	China...	...	„	48	478	142	1,223	34	227
	Australia	...	„	124	1,521	30	365	7	146
	India	...	„	566	6,729	551	5,875	116	1,087
Tobacco ...	U.S.A.	...	lb.	71,600	11,495	62,930	9,609	56,946	6,410

Exports.

		<i>To Australia.</i>	<i>To Europe.</i>	<i>To United States of America</i>
		£	£	£
1933		120,371	68,421	Nil.
1934		79,752	25,755	Nil.
1935		61,301	31,333	Nil.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Destination.</i>	<i>Unit.</i>	1933.		1934.		1935.	
			<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
Copra	Australia	tons	12,916	86,649	13,894	41,440	10,564	22,48
	U.S.A.	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	9,340	66,777	6,483	25,339	6,807	30,600
Trocas shell	Australia	"	393	18,750	445	24,172	408	23,694
	New Hebrides	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	7	286	5	190	8	430
	Mandated							
Ivory-nuts	Solomons	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Australia	"	469	3,334	790	5,058	636	3,357
	Europe	"	142	1,017	37	210	39	153
	Mandated							
Green snail	Solomons	"	33	240	—	—	—	—
	Australia	"	57	942	167	2,059	104	1,533
	Europe	"	34	306	—	—	8	150
Bêche-de-mer	Australia	"	19	2,135	13	1,582	15½	1,470
Timber	Australia	sup.feet	1,204,124	5,903	735,419	2,935	1,418,984	5,938

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block; bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s. to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs, and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages of Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from forty-five to fifty per week.

The minimum wage of a native labourer is £6 a year and all found. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service or under verbal, monthly, or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap,

salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. Each of the five Mission Societies operating in the Protectorate (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission, the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and the Marist Mission) provides elementary education at its principal schools without financial assistance from the Government. In the case of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, however, the Government made a grant of £50 to assist the Mission school where technical education, though rudimentary, was being imparted.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The s.s. *Malaita* called direct from Australia every 5½ weeks, and after proceeding through the Protectorate to the mandated territory of New Guinea via Tulagi, returned to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, Japanese, and German vessels during 1934-5.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1934-1935:—

	Number. Tonnage.	
British	26	54,321
Japanese	1	3,343
German	5	4,585

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On many plantations where motor cars and motor lorries are used, ribbon tracks have been made which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up by paths and tracks, varying in quality.

Internal communication was maintained by the regular mail vessel s.s. *Malaita*, and occasionally by auxiliary sailing vessels owned by planters and traders. Inter-island and inter-port communication was also available by the motor vessel *Kurimarau*, owned by Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by the small inter-island vessels belonging to the company mentioned above or by chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a Foreman of Works, and a Head Chinese Mechanic. Three Chinese mechanics and eight natives are employed.

The principal public works carried out during the year were the building of a new wireless station, in place of the old building which was found to be unsafe for further use, and the renovation of the concrete landing stage at Tulagi. A bridge at Tulagi, found to be in a dangerous condition, was completely rebuilt.

Repairs, including painting, were carried out on existing buildings where required.

Extensive repairs were carried out on District vessels, and on the Resident Commissioner's vessel, the *A.V. Tulagi*.

XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Commissioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police and Prisons Department are administered by the Officer Commanding the Armed Constabulary. Throughout the year a junior officer of the administration has acted as gaoler. The Constabulary performs the dual function of Defence Force and Police. The native personnel, two sergeant-majors and 112 other ranks, has been maintained at full strength, and the number of men of the required physical standard offering themselves as recruits has been plentiful. The detachments at local

District Headquarters have been posted to suit requirements. The health of the Force has been very good, and, except for an epidemic of influenza during the last quarter of the year, there have been no cases of serious illness.

Besides the European officers mentioned above, there are 15 native warders at Tulagi prison, and one warder at each of the district prisons. The discipline throughout the year has been satisfactory, and the health of staff and convicts at the Central Prison has been good. No deaths occurred. There were 66 convicts at Tulagi on 1st January, 1935, and 89 on 31st December. One convict under sentence of death was hanged.

1.—CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Crimes reported or known to the Police.</i>			<i>Persons proceeded against.</i>				
	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Not brought before a Magis-terial Court for want of evidence.</i>	<i>Brought before a Magis-terial Court.</i>	<i>Number.</i>			<i>Appre-hended.</i>	<i>Sum-moned.</i>
				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
1. Homicide	6	2	4	5	5	—	5	—
2. Other offences against the person.	67	—	67	98	95	3	14	84
3. Praedial larceny ...	20	—	20	20	20	—	2	18
4. Other offences against property.	47	2	45	93	93	—	7	86
5. Other crimes	282	—	282	442	425	17	82	360

2.—PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Crime or offence.	Discharged.			Committed for trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Num- ber (total).	For want of prosecution.	On the merits of the case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprison- ment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of
1. Homicide	6	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	106	1	12	16	77	38	—	35	4
3. Praedial larceny ...	16	1	—	—	15	4	—	10	1
4. { Malicious injury to property.	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	1
{ Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and mal- icious injury to property).	97	2	8	32	55	36	—	15	4
Other offences, viz.:— Offences against the Master and Ser- vants laws, inclu- ding laws relating to labourers under contract.	69	1	—	2	66	4	—	58	4
Offences against Re- venue laws, Muni- cipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social econ- omy of the Protec- torate.	150	1	13	7	129	20	—	99	10
Miscellaneous minor offences.	284*	5	49	2†	228	137	—	50	41

* 2 Juveniles.

† 2nd offenders.

3.—PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Crime or Offence.	Total.	Before a Judicial Commissioner.	Before a Deputy Commissioner.	Sex.		Not tried (nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before trial.	Acquitted.	Total.	Convicted.					Round over or disposed of.	
				M.	F.					Penal servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Death.		
																Sentences.
1.—Murder of wife or concubine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder of child ...	5	5	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Murder other than wife, child, or concubine.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.—Attempted murder ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ...	3	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person.	12	12	12	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	4	4	1	—	—	—
3.—Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.—Offences against property with violence.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against property.	35	35	35	—	—	—	—	30	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
5.—Other crimes ...	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is the more important legislation enacted during the year 1935 :—

King's Regulation No. 6 of 1935.—The Agricultural and Live Stock Regulation, 1935.

This Regulation provides for the protection and advancement of agricultural and live-stock industries in the Protectorate.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.*Revenue and Expenditure :—*

					<i>Revenue.</i> £	<i>Expenditure.</i> £
1933	...	...	...	...	58,541	53,423
1934	...	...	...	...	53,039	56,822
1935	...	...	...	...	52,927	54,207

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1935, was £62,574.

Public Debt.—Nil.

Taxation :—

<i>Description of main heads of Taxation.</i>						<i>Yield.</i> £
					£	
<i>Customs—</i>						
Import duties	...	...	...	...	26,137	
Export duties	...	...	...	...	3,268	29,405
<i>Licences and Internal Revenue ...</i>						12,133
Ship licences	...	...	...	...	902	
Station licences	...	...	...	...	902	
Native tax	...	...	...	...	8,332	
<i>Fees of Court and Office, etc. ...</i>						1,892
Hospital fees	...	...	...	...	566	
Harbour Light dues	...	...	...	...	659	
<i>Post Office ...</i>						1,074
Sale of stamps	...	...	...	...	532	
Telegraph receipts	...	...	...	...	336	
<i>Rents and Royalties ...</i>						2,259
Land Rents	...	...	...	...	2,234	
<i>Interest on Investments ...</i>						2,088
<i>Miscellaneous ...</i>						2,397
<i>Land ...</i>						87

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

In 1932 an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connection with investigations regarding diseases of the coconut palm. This work was only made possible by a generous free grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate. To assist further, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, made an offer, which was accepted, of £600 a year towards the salary of a second entomologist. This contribution was later discontinued, on the transfer of the second entomologist, and Messrs Lever's are now employing an officer, who is working with the Government Entomologist. The investigation of immature nutfall of coconuts has continued and most of the estates between Shortlands Island in the west and San Cristoval in the east have been visited. The entomological staff is of the opinion that insects are not a primary cause of the poor or dwindling yields of certain areas and evidence has been put forward showing that rainfall is intimately connected with yields.

Various secondary crops, in particular derris, have been investigated, and hopes are entertained that one local variety may prove of commercial value.

On the 6th May, the Silver Jubilee of His late Majesty King George V was celebrated at Tulagi, all District Headquarters, and at various other parts of the Protectorate.

On the 29th August a waterspout of considerable size was seen approximately 20 miles away, between the islands of Savo and Tulagi.

H.M.S. *Sussex* visited Tulagi between the 11th and 13th September.

A cyclone of a severe nature visited Vanikoro on the 10th December. All buildings were wrecked and blown out to sea with the exception of the house of the manager of the Timber Company and the store. There was no loss of life. During the cyclone the A.V. *Hygeia*, of the Medical Department, was totally wrecked at Nea, Santa Cruz, though fortunately without loss of life.

On the 15th December, earth tremors of a somewhat severe nature were felt at Tulagi. The tremors continued for approximately 24 hours, at frequent intervals. Large landslides have been observed on Guadalcanal and Savo. No loss of life has been reported.

Advisory Council was held twice during the year, on the 7th May and following days, and on the 4th November and following days.

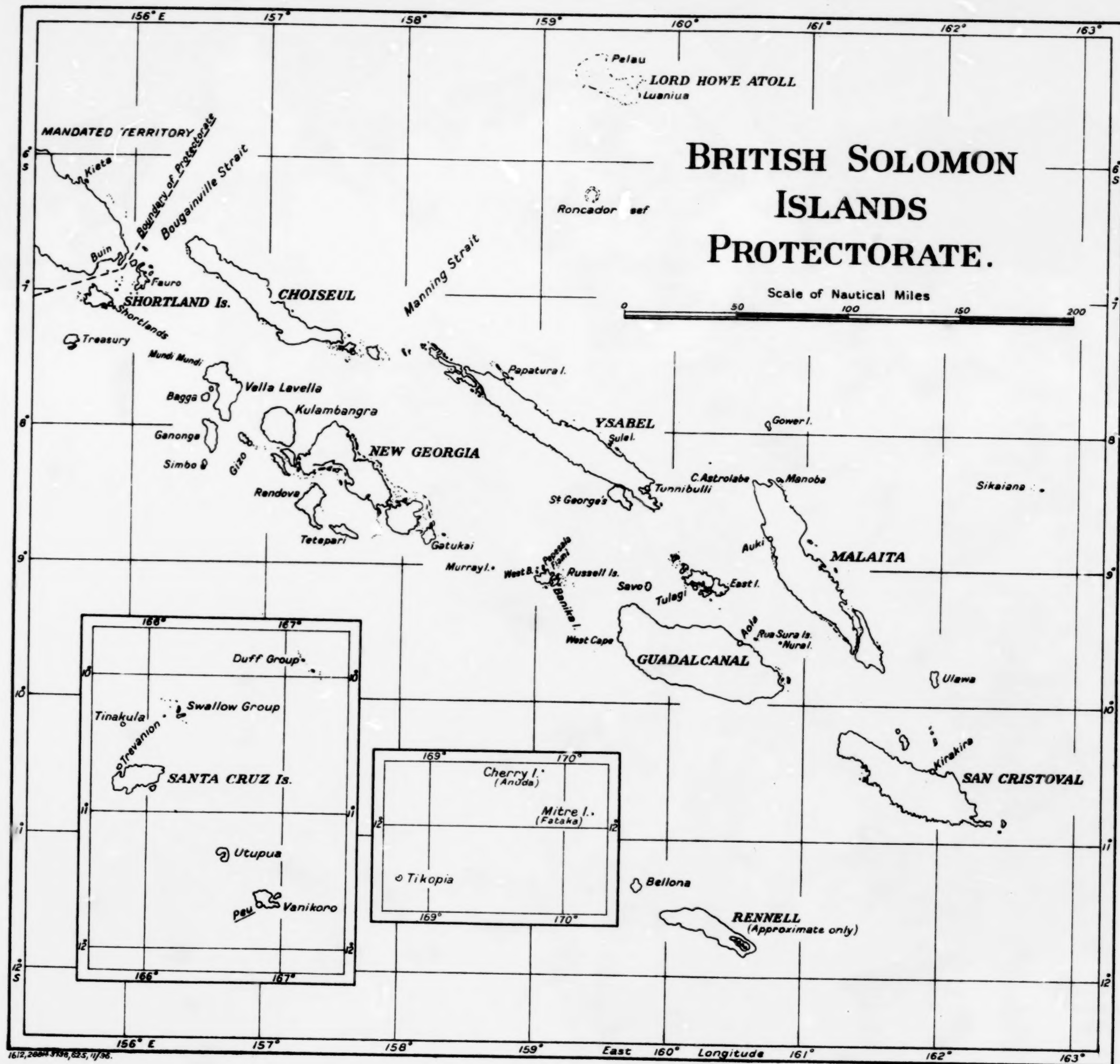
APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups." Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowde.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
*Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.
*Census Report, 1931, together with various ethnological reports (typewritten).		

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

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Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period
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[Cmd. 5202] 4d. (5d.)

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN EAST AFRICA

Report of the East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani, for the
period 1st April, 1935 to 31st March, 1936

[Colonial No. 119] 1s. (In the press)

EDUCATION OF AFRICAN COMMUNITIES

Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies

[Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

KENYA: FINANCIAL POSITION AND SYSTEM OF TAXATION

Report of Commission (including five Maps)

[Colonial No. 116] 9s. (9s. 6d.)

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Report of the Kenya Native Affairs Department for the year 1934

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Cartaret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Bouleuse* sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for forty years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and the British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated. Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikaiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was:—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year; the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom are officials:—

Official Members.

D. R. McDonald, Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser.
Captain N. S. B. Kidson, Secretary to the Government.
F. E. Johnson, I.S.O., Treasurer.

Non-Official Members.

D. Mackinnon.
G. E. Clift.
Right Reverend W. Baddeley, Bishop of Melanesia.
J. C. M. Scott.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

The native population of the Protectorate at the last census taken in 1931 was as follows:—

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nggela and Savo	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh ...	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomons	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikaiana...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	482*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian.

No very great change in the population has taken place since the last census.

The natives of the Protectorate are for the most part of Papuo-Melanesian stock with variations in skin colour, texture of hair and general physical characteristics.

In certain outlying islands, such as Lord Howe, Rennell, Sikaiana, Santa Calatina and Tucopia, the natives are of Polynesian stock.

The physique of the natives varies considerably in the different islands and even on the same island. It will be found that on the larger islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Choiseul, the "bush" natives are generally of better physique than the "salt-water" natives.

The average height of the Melanesian is about 5 feet 3 inches and the average weight is about 9 stone 2 lbs. The Polynesian is a taller and larger-built man.

In general, the natives are a heterogeneous people of varying races, cultures, religions and standard of living. For this reason, generalities are apt to be misleading as a statement which is perfectly true of one island or section of an island may be entirely inapplicable to another part of the Group.

The natives, prior to contact with Europeans, were in the Neolithic stage of civilisation.

Births and Deaths are recorded in the following Districts:— Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomons, Shortlands and Ysabel. During the year under review there was no District Officer stationed at Eastern Solomons District or Shortlands District.

The following table gives the latest figures available:—

District	1934.		1935.		1936.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
Guadalcanal ...	416	302	455	286	425	436
Gizo ...	137	111	255	150	198	95
Nggela and Savo ...	113	100	104	93	138	147
Eastern Solomons ...	150	156	—	—	—	—
Shortlands ...	27	26	—	—	—	—
Ysabel ...	144	116	127	67	77	45

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES (PER 1,000).

District.	1934.		1935.		1936.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
Guadalcanal ...	29.0	21.1	31.6	19.9	29.9	30.6
Gizo ...	18.7	15.1	30.6	18.0	27.6	13.2
Nggela and Savo ...	21.4	19.0	19.8	17.8	26.0	27.7
Eastern Solomons ...	20.0	20.8	—	—	—	—
Shortlands ...	20.7	19.4	—	—	—	—
Ysabel ...	24.8	20.0	21.9	11.5	13.5	7.9

With the exception of Eastern Solomons, all Districts from which vital statistics are available recorded an increase of population for the year 1934, a condition which had not previously existed since records have been available. The increase is mainly attributed to the fact that there was no serious epidemic during that year.

All Districts recorded an increase in population in 1935, but this year, owing to influenza, the record was not so good.

IV.—HEALTH.

The year was unfavourable. Influenza became epidemic in May and the Protectorate did not again become free from the disease during the year. It spread through the islands in successive waves and persons who were affected during the first wave again contracted the disease on its subsequent appearance. Very few people escaped entirely. Complications were not infrequent and a serious mortality resulted.

Other diseases showed their usual characters. Malaria is universal and the administration distributed free to natives quinine to the amount of approximately 100 kilogrammes. Yaws, which is also universal among the natives, was vigorously

treated. One special unit was kept in the field treating yaws and hookworm and, in addition, treatments were given at Government stations and by medical officers and native medical practitioners while on tour.

Native Labour.

Native labour, in common with the remainder of the Protectorate, suffered in the influenza epidemic. There were forty-four deaths among labourers and of these fifteen at least were due to pneumonia.

An outbreak of beriberi occurred among the labour of the Vanikoro Timber Company and resulted in nine deaths. The cause was found to be the use of deteriorated rice which required vigorous washing with consequent loss of its vitamin content.

The complete list of cause of death is as follows:—

Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia lobar	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Meningitis (pneumococcic)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (broncho)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Beriberi	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Septicaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European type consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate

ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer of labourers is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1936, the Protectorate exported the following products:—

	Quantity.	Estimated value.
		£
Copra	20,699 tons	156,532
Ivory-Nuts	373 "	2,249
Trocas shell	352 "	24,567
Beche-de-mer	17 "	2,737
Green snail shell	72 "	1,918
Timber	1,872,085 sup. feet	8,003
		£196,006

The figures in this Report relate to the financial year 1935-6. During the calendar year 1936 the Copra market, upon which the whole finances of the Protectorate depend, after several years of deep depression, was fair during the first three-quarters of the year, and enabled the planters to receive a payable return for their produce. During the last three months the market rose rapidly from £10 per ton to £17 15s. per ton, and at the close of the year there was every hope of a return to prosperity.

Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary Limited produce exclusively a superior hot-air dried copra, and Messrs. Malayta Company Limited, Solomon Islands Development Company Limited, and Shortland Islands Plantations Limited, produce a considerable quantity of the same high grade copra.

The present difference in value between this hot-air dried copra and the crudely smoked copra would scarcely justify the additional expense of production and the outlay necessary to convert the smoke-drier on the smaller plantations.

The export duty on copra is on a sliding scale of 5 per cent. on the London price of sun-dried copra, less a parity of £5. This tax is adjusted on each Monday prior to the arrival of the mail steamer.

The price paid in Tulagi for Trocas shell at no period of the year fell below £80 per ton. It is difficult to explain this

inflated price as the quantity exported was only about 50 tons below the average yearly shipment and there appears to be no shortage of this product. It is understood that the bulk of this shell is sold in Sydney from whence it is shipped to England and from there to Czecho-Slovakia.

The high price paid for this product has encouraged Japanese adventurers to poach the reefs of the Protectorate for it.

Ivory nuts grow wild. The natives collect the nuts and sell them to non-native traders. The market is small and not dependable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the financial years ended 31st March, 1934, 1935, and 1936 are as follows:—

						<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
						£	£
1934	...	...	...	...	...	158,776	111,669
1935	...	...	...	...	...	145,939	94,074
1936	...	...	...	...	...	150,163	198,358

Imports.

				<i>From United Kingdom.</i>	<i>From other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
				£	£	£
1934	...	...	...	18,357	101,508	38,911
1935	...	...	...	22,337	90,946	32,656
1936	...	...	...	20,608	98,807	30,748

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Unit.	1934.		1935.		1936.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bags and sacks	India	doz.	32,005	£ 10,460	22,363	£ 7,174	30,622	£ 10,098
Biscuits (plain)	Australia	lb.	310,114	4,683	290,684	4,226	290,131	3,793
Drapery	Australia		—	2,918	—	1,891	—	1,418
	China		—	2,399	—	743	—	578
	United Kingdom...		—	3,003	—	3,808	—	5,760
Hardware	Australia		—	3,000	—	1,445	—	1,691
	United Kingdom...		—	914	—	933	—	1,121
	Australia		—	6,305	—	4,607	—	3,918
Machinery	United Kingdom...		—	3,039	—	6,549	—	2,568
	Australia		—	342	—	947	—	1,319
	United Kingdom...		—	7,435	—	6,744	—	6,363
Meats (preserved)	Australia	lb.	303,493	£ 7,435	281,714	£ 6,744	244,040	£ 6,363
	New Zealand		1,703	80	5,207	252	7,542	383
Kerosene	U.S.A.	gal.	41,171	3,042	16,654	1,259	24,569	1,832
	Borneo		30,944	1,206	27,641	979	44,949	1,706
Motor Fuel	Borneo		33,492	1,447	57,233	2,143	76,208	2,461
	U.S.A.		33,356	2,312	24,810	1,636	21,707	1,506
Paints	Australia	tons	22	1,856	28	2,151	21	1,812
	United Kingdom...		3	136	2	187	2	118
Rice	Burma		607	6,048	1,061	10,587	1,200	13,572
	China		142	1,223	34	227	17	194
	Australia		30	365	7	146	8	99
	India		551	5,875	116	1,087	38	435
Tobacco	U.S.A.	lb.	62,930	9,609	56,946	6,410	53,137	6,413

Exports.

To United States
of America.

To Europe.

To Australia.

£
Nil
Nil
Nil

£

25,755
31,333
70,325

£

79,952
61,301
123,644... ..
... ..
... ..1934 ...
1935 ...
1936 ...

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Commodity.	Destination.	Unit.	1934.		1935.		1936.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copra	Australia	tons	13,894	£ 41,440	10,564	£ 22,480	12,328	£ 83,480
	U.S.A.	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	6,483	25,339	6,807	30,600	7,914	69,158
	Australia	"	445	24,172	408	23,694	336	23,400
Trocas shell	New Hebrides	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Europe	"	5	190	8	430	16	1,167
	Mandated Solomons	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Australia	"	790	5,058	636	3,357	270	1,754
Ivory nuts	Europe	"	37	210	39	153	—	—
	Mandated Solomons	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Australia	"	167	2,059	104	1,533	72	1,918
	Europe	"	—	—	8	150	—	—
Green snail shell	Australia	"	13	1,582	151	1,470	17	2,737
	Europe	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beche-de-mer	Australia	Sup. feet	735,419	2,935	1,418,984	5,938	1,872,085	8,003
Timber	Australia	Sup. feet	—	—	—	—	—	—

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block, bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper as poultry, pigs and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages for Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from forty-five to fifty per week.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, whose wages vary from £10 to £16 a month, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, indentured and non-indentured. Natives may be indentured for periods not exceeding two years. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purposes of domestic service. Juvenile labour may only be employed for light work. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week, and five hours on Saturdays. One thousand one hundred and forty-six labourers were signed on under contracts for varying periods, and two hundred and two signed on for an extension of their original service.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service, or under verbal, monthly, or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco, and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five and more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

The cost of living and the quantity eaten by a native in his own village would be difficult to estimate.

There is no doubt that climate influences diet, and diet depends on local conditions. In the Protectorate this varies through all graduations from that of the Melanesian "bushman" on Malaita, the basis of whose dietary is taro and similar plants, to that of the Polynesian on coral atolls, whose diet is almost exclusively fish and coconut.

The dietary is mainly vegetarian. There is no actual shortage of food as, when the staple crop fails, there is a plentiful supply of wild yams, wild taro, and wild bananas.

There are no industrial factories or underground mines and there is no unemployment or land scarcity in the Protectorate.

Roughly, only one-eighth of the total native adult male population is employed for wages; all the others are private land-owners who work in their own time and for periods to suit themselves.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. Each of the five mission societies operating in the Protectorate (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, The Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission, The Seventh Day Adventist Mission, and the Marist Mission) provides elementary education at its principal schools without financial assistance from the Government. In the case of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, however, the Government made a grant of £50 to assist the mission school where technical education, though rudimentary, was being imparted.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The M.V. *Malaita* called direct from Australia every six weeks, and after making several calls in the Protectorate proceeded to the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, returning, via Tulagi, to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from the Commonwealth Government of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, French, German and Japanese vessels during 1935-6.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1935-6:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
British	35	55,803
French	1	104
German	5	4,585
Japanese	1	3,407

Inter-island communication was maintained at irregular intervals by sailing vessels with auxiliary engines, owned by planters and traders, and by the Government schooners which are attached to the groups of islands forming Districts.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On coconut plantations where motor-cars and motor-lorries are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made through the palm groves which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up usually by paths and tracks, varying in quality, but the sea and canoes are used generally for transport over long distances.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by small inter-island vessels or by chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5; and notes to the value of £4,637 have been issued. United Kingdom and Australian currencies also circulate.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a European Foreman, a head Chinese mechanic, and two other Chinese mechanics.

Other Chinese mechanics and carpenters as well as natives are engaged as required.

A new house for the District Officer was erected at Vanikoro, the old one having been wrecked by an earthquake. Maintenance of buildings has, as usual, taken up the greater part of the time, and this work, owing to the great distances apart, in sea miles, of the various islands and the comparative absence of transport, is accompanied by delays and other inconveniences.

Repairs to Government schooners and launches have been carried out during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Commissioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police Force in the Protectorate is an armed constabulary which performs the dual function of a Defence Force and Police. The personnel consists of the Commandant, a European Sub-Inspector, two Sergeants-Major and 112 other ranks. There has been no Sub-Inspector throughout the year, but otherwise the force has been kept at full strength and the number of men of the required physical standard offering themselves as recruits have been plentiful. The detachments at District Headquarters have been posted to suit requirements. The health of the Force has been good and a high standard of discipline maintained.

There is a central prison at Tulagi and small local gaols in the various Districts. At present the Commandant of Armed Constabulary is also Superintendent of Prisons. Throughout the year the post of gaoler was filled by a European officer of another department. The establishment consists of fifteen native warders and a wardress at Tulagi, and one warder at each of the district prisons. The discipline throughout the year has been satisfactory, and the health of the convicts has been good. No deaths have occurred. There were 89 convicts in the Central Prison at the beginning of the year and 78 on the last day of the year. There were no executions during 1936.

I. CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

<i>Crime.</i>	<i>Crimes reported or known to the Police.</i>			<i>Persons proceeded against.</i>			
	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Not brought before a Magisterial Court for want of Evidence.</i>	<i>Brought before a Magisterial Court.</i>	<i>Number.</i>			<i>Summoned.</i>
				<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
1. Homicide	3	—	3	3	3	—	—
2. Other offences against the person.	99	—	99	102	101	1	58
3. Praedial larceny	44	—	44	45	41	4	33
4. Other offences against property	73	—	73	76	76	—	63
5. Other crimes	406	—	406	423	397	26	291

2. PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Crime or Offence.	Discharged.			Committed for Trial.	Convicted Summarily.				
	Number (total).	For want of prosecution.	On the merits of the case.		Total.	Sentences.			
						Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fines.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of
1. Homicide	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
2. Other offences against the person	89	—	3	17	69	36	—	26	7
3. Praedial larceny	43	—	4	2	37	23	—	10	4
4. Malicious injury to property...	24	—	1	5	18	14	—	2	2
Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injury to property).	73	5	10	—	58	42	1	8	7
Other offences, viz. :— Offences against the Master and Servant laws, including laws relating to labourers under contract.	97	—	5	—	92	6	—	69	17
Offences against Revenue laws, Municipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social economy of the Protectorate.	150	—	43	—	107	12	—	76	19
Miscellaneous minor offences	282	—	43	—	239	133	2	44	60

Bound over or otherwise disposed of.

3. PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

Crime or Offence.	Total.	Before a Judicial Commissioner.	Before a Deputy Commissioner.	Sex.		Not tried. (Nolle prosequi, &c.)	Found insane before trial.	Acquitted.	Convicted.							
				M.	F.				Total.	Sentences.						
										Penal servitude.	Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Fine.	Death.	Bound over or otherwise disposed of.	
1. Murder of wife or concubine ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder of child ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Murder, other than wife, child or concubine.	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manslaughter ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Attempted murder ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rape ...	3	2	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Unnatural crime ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person ...	20	14	6	20	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—
3. Praedial larceny ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against property with violence ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Other offences against property ...	14	3	11	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—
5. Other crimes ...	3	—	3	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is the more important legislation enacted during the year 1936:—

KING'S REGULATIONS.

No. 1. Public Health (Amendment) Regulation, 1936.—To amend the definition and the appointments with regard to Sanitary Officers.

No. 2. Advisory Council Regulation, 1936.—To govern the constitution and duties of the Advisory Council and to regulate the conduct of business at meetings thereof.

No. 3. Agriculture and Live Stock (Amendment) Regulation, 1936.—To amend the Agriculture and Live Stock Regulation, 1935, in particular with regard to fumigation, the landing of plants and live stock, etc., and offences against the Regulation.

No. 4. Licence (Amendment) Regulation, 1936.—To amend the Solomons Licence Regulation, 1916.

No. 5. Mining (Amendment) (Royalties) Regulation, 1936.—To amend the Mining Regulation, 1927, by providing for the payment of 5 per cent. of the value of gold mined, extracted or collected.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1934	53,039	56,822
1935	52,927	54,207
1936	58,465	49,224

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1936, was £71,816.

Public Debt:—Nil.

Taxation:—

Description of main heads of taxation.

	Yield.
	£
Customs:	
Import duties	25,233
Export duties	8,142
	33,375
Licences and Internal Revenue:	12,016
Ship licences	836
Station licences	1,082
Native tax	8,285
Fees of Court and Office, etc.	1,592
Hospital fees	316
Harbour light dues	662
Post Office	3,998
Sale of stamps	3,526
Telegraph receipts	307
Rents and Royalties	3,365
Land rents	3,072
Interest on investments	2,119
Miscellaneous	845
Land	109

XVI.—MINING.

A Mining Area has been proclaimed on the Sorvohio and Tsarivonga Rivers in the interior of the island of Guadalcanal between about 13 and 20 miles distant by road, track and river-bed from its northern coast. Two mining leases, each of 300 acres, have been granted within this area to Solomon Islands Gold Development, Limited, for the purpose of mining for gold by hydraulic sluicing.

The country in this vicinity is mountainous, and cut through by precipitous gorges through which the water finds its way from the interior to the coastal flats and thence to the coast.

Three prospecting licences on the Sutakiki River are still being prospected by Solomon Islands Gold Development, Limited, where the country is even more rugged and broken.

Eight prospecting licences have been issued by the Mining Board; sixteen miner's rights have been granted and nine have been renewed.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meetings of the Advisory Council were held on 12th to 15th June and 20th to 23rd October, 1936.

In 1932 an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connection with investigations regarding diseases of the coconut palm. This work was only made possible by a generous free grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate. To assist further, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, made an offer, which was accepted, of £600 a year towards the salary of a second entomologist. This contribution was later discontinued, on the transfer of the second entomologist, and Messrs. Lever's are now employing an officer. The caging experiments to induce nutfall by the green coconut bug (*Amblypelta cocophaga*, China) have been continued on Guadalcanal and Gavutu in co-operation with the entomologist employed by Messrs. Lever's. The Dutch scientists in Java have promised to help with the introduction of one of the egg-parasites of the closely related *Dasynus*, a pepper pest in Sumatra, as a control for *Amblypelta*. The temperature in Brisbane proving fatally low for the transport of *Tetrastichodes* (the parasite of the *Brontispa* beetle), the entomologist met in Rabaul a consignment sent from Java. Owing to the long interval between the arrivals of the K.P.M. (Dutch) and Burns Philp liners, these parasites had to be kept in coolers for a longer period than they were able to stand and so failed to emerge. New arrangements, perhaps involving air transport, are under consideration.

Towards the end of the year there were severe North-West gales and heavy seas, and earth tremors were frequent in June but did no damage.

APPENDIX.

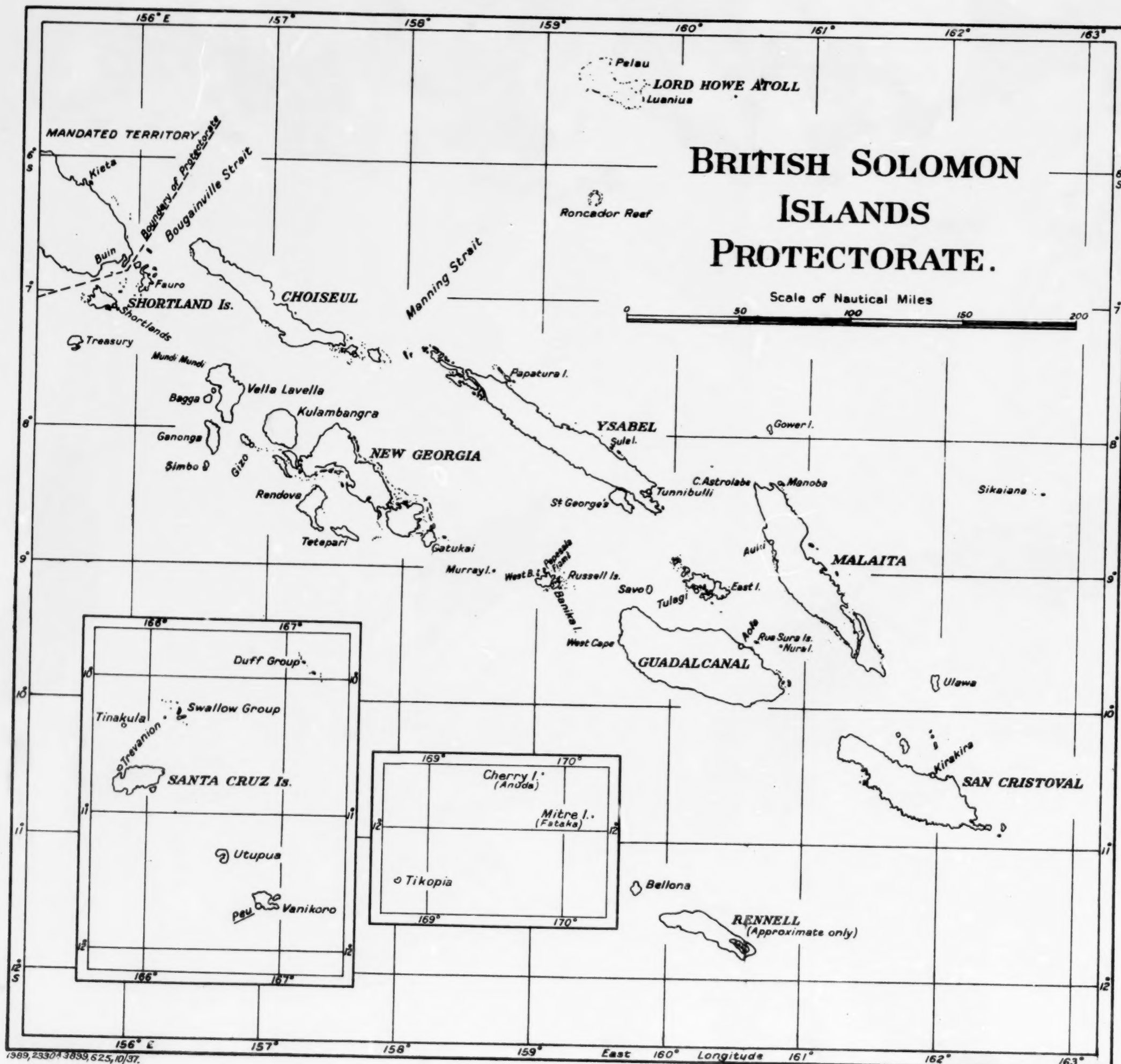
PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups." Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowde.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
*Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.
*Census Report, 1931, together with various ethnological reports (typewritten).		

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.





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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Cartaret rediscovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the islands of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville, in the frigate *La Bouleuse*, sailed from Monte Video on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for forty years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and the British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated. Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikaiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bourgainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was:—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere is not

healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year; the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed at Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom are officials.

Official Members.

- F. E. Johnson, I.S.O., Treasurer.
- S. G. C. Knibbs, Commissioner of Lands and Crown Surveyor.
- A. E. Osborne, Engineer-Operator in Charge, Wireless Station.

Non-Official Members.

- D. Mackinnon.
- Right Reverend W. Baddeley, Bishop of Melanesia.
- J. C. M. Scott.
- C. E. Hart.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

The native population of the Protectorate at the last census taken in 1931 was as follows:—

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nggela and Savo	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh ...	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomon Islands	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortland Islands	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikaiana... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	482*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian.

No very great change in the population has taken place since the last census.

The natives of the Protectorate are for the most part of Papuo-Melanesian stock with variations in skin colour, texture of hair and general physical characteristics.

In certain outlying islands, such as Lord Howe, Rennell, Sikaiana, Santa Catalina and Tucopia, the natives are of Polynesian stock.

The physique of the natives varies considerably in the different islands and even on the same island. It will be found that on the larger islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal and Choiseul, the "bush" natives are generally of better physique than the "salt-water" natives.

The average height of the Melanesian is about 5 feet 3 inches, and the average weight is about 9 stone 2 lbs. The Polynesian is a taller and larger built man.

In general, the natives are a heterogeneous people of varying races, cultures, religions and standard of living. For this

reason, generalities are apt to be misleading as a statement which is perfectly true of one island or section of an island may be entirely inapplicable to another part of the Group.

The natives, prior to contact with Europeans, were in the Neolithic stage of civilisation.

Births and Deaths are recorded in the following Districts:—Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomon Islands, Shortland and Ysabel. During the year under review there was no District Officer stationed in the Eastern Solomon Islands District. A District Officer was stationed in the Shortland District during the last quarter of the year only.

The following table gives the latest figures available:—

District.	1935.		1936.		1937.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
Guadalcanal ...	455	286	425	436	352	392
Gizo ...	255	150	198	95	249	96
Nggela and Savo ...	104	93	138	147	99	157
Eastern Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shortland Islands ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ysabel ...	127	67	77	45	2	41

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH- AND DEATH-RATES (PER 1,000).

District.	1935.		1936.		1937.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
Guadalcanal ...	31.6	19.9	29.9	30.6	24.7	27.5
Gizo ...	30.6	18.0	27.6	13.2	34.7	13.3
Nggela and Savo ...	19.8	17.8	26.0	27.7	18.6	29.6
Eastern Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shortland Islands ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ysabel ...	21.9	11.5	13.5	7.9	17.8	7.1

With the exception of the Eastern Solomon Islands, all Districts from which vital statistics are available recorded an increase of population for the year 1934, a condition which had not previously existed since records have been available. The increase is mainly attributed to the fact that there was no serious epidemic during that year.

The Districts of Gizo and Ysabel only showed an increase of Births over Deaths this year.

IV.—HEALTH.

The year was unfavourable. Influenza, which was reported last year, continued prevalent throughout the Group in 1937. Complications were frequent, pneumonia was abnormally prevalent and otitis, empyema and meningitis also occurred as complications.

Other diseases showed no unusual characters. Malaria is present through the islands. Yaws, which is almost universal among the natives, was vigorously treated with neo-arsphenamine or bismuth. Hookworm was treated by a special unit as well as at Government stations.

Native Labour.

Native labour in common with the remainder of the Protectorate suffered from the prevalent respiratory infections. There were 40 deaths among indentured labourers and of these 20 were due to respiratory disease.

Otherwise health among the labour had no unusual features.

LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG NATIVE LABOUR.

Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Malaria cerebral	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beriberi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis glandular	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lobar pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Acute Pulmonary Oedema	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coronary embolism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Homicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.,

The Chinese houses are of European type consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomon Islands being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomon Islands. The houses are generally fairly large

and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and the construction of better-class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer of labourers is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the housing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1937, the Protectorate exported the following products:—

	Quantity.	Estimated value.
		£
Copra	25,073 tons	293,054
Ivory nuts	593 "	4,263
Trocas shell	265 "	22,426
Beche-de-mer	7/20 "	33
Green snail shell	57 "	2,156
Timber	1,424,891 sup. feet	6,063
		£327,995

The figures in this Report relate to the financial year 1936-7. During the calendar year 1937 the local price paid for copra rose to £19 10s. od. per ton in January and gradually fell during the year when the price in December was only £7 12s. 3d. per ton.

Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, produce exclusively a superior hot-air dried copra, and Messrs. Fairymead Sugar Company, Limited, Solomon Islands Development Company, Limited, and Shortland Islands Plantations, Limited, produce a considerable quantity of the same high grade copra.

The present difference in value between this hot-air dried copra and the crudely smoked copra would scarcely justify the additional expense of production and the outlay necessary to convert the smoke-drier on the smaller plantations.

The export duty on copra is on a sliding scale of 5 per cent. on the London price of sun-dried copra, less a parity of £5. This tax is adjusted on each Monday prior to the arrival of the mail steamer.

The price paid in Tulagi for Trocas shell averaged during the year approximately £85 per ton.

Ivory nuts grow wild. The natives collect the nuts and sell them to non-native traders. The market is small and not dependable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the financial years ended 31st March, 1935, 1936 and 1937 are as follows:—

					<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
					£	£
1935	...	...	...	...	145,939	94,074
1936	...	...	...	...	150,163	198,358
1937	...	...	...	...	197,967	331,438

Imports.

		<i>From United Kingdom.</i>	<i>From other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
		£	£	£
1935	...	22,337	90,946	32,656
1936	...	20,608	98,807	30,748
1937	...	26,196	133,839	37,932

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Unit.	1935.		1936.		1937.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bags and sacks	India	doz.	22,363	£ 7,174	30,622	£ 10,093	34,025	£ 10,920
Biscuits (plain)	Australia	lb.	290,684	4,226	290,131	3,793	393,793	5,512
Drapery	Australia		—	1,891	—	1,418	—	1,555
	China		—	743	—	578	—	908
	United Kingdom		—	3,808	—	5,760	—	6,553
Hardware	Australia		—	1,445	—	1,691	—	2,550
	United Kingdom		—	933	—	1,121	—	1,766
Machinery	Australia		—	4,607	—	3,918	—	5,220
	United Kingdom		—	6,549	—	2,568	—	4,099
	U.S.A.		—	947	—	1,319	—	1,321
Meats (preserved)	Australia	lb.	281,714	6,744	244,040	6,363	307,689	8,787
	New Zealand		5,207	252	7,542	383	6,089	321
Kerosene	U.S.A.	gal.	16,654	1,259	24,569	1,832	22,172	1,605
	Borneo		27,641	979	44,949	1,706	44,205	1,342
Motor Fuel	Borneo		57,233	2,143	76,208	2,461	48,419	1,528
	U.S.A.		24,810	1,636	21,707	1,506	22,625	1,513
Paints	Australia	tons	28	2,151	21	1,812	24	2,038
	United Kingdom		2	187	2	118	4	283
Rice	Burma		1,061	10,587	1,200	13,572	1,558	17,941
	China		34	227	17	194	18	156
	Australia		7	146	8	99	1	15
	India		116	1,087	38	435	172	1,962
Tobacco	U.S.A.	lb.	56,946	6,410	53,137	6,413	66,064	8,020

Exports.

To United States
of America.

To Europe.

To Australia.

£
Nil
Nil
Nil

£

£

31,333
70,325
144,52961,301
123,644
177,659...
...
...1935 ...
1936 ...
1937 ...

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Commodity.	Destination.	Unit.	1935.		1936.		1937.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copra ...	Australia ...	tons	10,564	£ 42,480	12,328	£ 83,480	12,377	£ 141,247
...	Europe ...	"	6,807	30,600	7,914	69,158	11,975	143,764
Trocas shell ...	Australia ...	"	408	23,694	336	23,400	256	21,661
...	Europe ...	"	8	430	16	1,167	9	765
Ivory nuts ...	Australia ...	"	636	3,357	270	1,754	367	3,086
...	Europe ...	"	39	153	—	—	—	—
Green snail shell ...	Australia ...	"	104	1,533	72	1,918	57	2,156
...	Europe ...	"	8	150	—	—	—	—
Beche-de-mer ...	Australia ...	"	15½	1,470	17	2,737	1/20	3
Timber ...	Australia ...	Sup. feet	1,418,984	5,938	1,872,085	8,003	1,424,891	6,063

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block, bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper as poultry, pigs and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages for Europeans employed on plantations ranged from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from 45 to 50 per week.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, whose wages vary from £10 to £16 a month, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, indentured and non-indentured. Natives may be indentured for periods not exceeding two years. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purposes of domestic service. Juvenile labour may only be employed for light work. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week and five hours on Saturdays. One thousand two hundred and sixty-four labourers were signed on under contract for varying periods, and two hundred and eighty-four signed on for an extension of their original service.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service, or under verbal, monthly, or day-to-day agreements is compelled by Government regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. The labourer is therefore not affected by a change in the price of food and the cost of living. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five or more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

The cost of living and the quantity eaten by a native in his own village would be difficult to estimate.

There is no doubt that climate influences diet, and diet depends on local conditions. In the Protectorate this varies through all graduations from that of the Melanesian "bushman" on Malaita, the basis of whose dietary is taro and similar plants, to that of the Polynesian on coral atolls, whose diet is almost exclusively fish and coconut.

The dietary is mainly vegetarian. There is no actual shortage of food as, when the staple crop fails, there is a plentiful supply of wild yams, wild taro, and wild bananas.

There are no industrial factories or underground mines and there is no unemployment or land scarcity in the Protectorate.

Roughly, only one-eighth of the total native adult male population is employed for wages; all the others are private land-owners who work in their own time and for periods to suit themselves.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools. The Methodist Mission and the Seventh Day Adventist Mission have good central schools providing sound elementary education. These two Missions have also, like the Melanesian, South Sea Evangelical and the Marist Missions, many other schools providing some education. In the case of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission the Government makes a grant of £50 a year to assist in the technical instruction.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The M.V. *Malaita* called direct from Australia every six weeks, and after making several calls in the Protectorate proceeded to the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, returning via Tulagi, to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from the Commonwealth Government of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct oversea shipments were made in British, German and Japanese vessels during 1936-7.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1936-7:—

					Number.	Tonnage.
British ...	...	...	...	...	30	56,513
German ...	...	...	...	...	6	6,055
Japanese ...	...	...	...	...	2	6,605

Inter-island communication was maintained at irregular intervals by sailing vessels with auxiliary engines, owned by planters and traders, and by the Government schooners which are attached to the groups of islands forming Districts.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On coconut plantations where motor-cars and motor-lorries are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made through the palm groves which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up usually by paths and tracks, varying in quality, but the sea and canoes are used generally for transport over long distances.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by small inter-island vessels or by chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes ceased to be legal tender from the 25th September, 1937.

, United Kingdom coin and Australian notes and coin were made legal tender in March, 1937.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a European Foreman, and a head Chinese mechanic.

Other Chinese mechanics and carpenters as well as natives are engaged as required.

Maintenance of buildings has, as usual, taken up a large part of the time, and this work, owing to the great distances apart, in sea miles, of the various islands and the absence of adequate transport, is accompanied by delays and other inconveniences.

Repairs to Government schooners and launches have been carried out during the year.

New Aga beacon lights have been erected to replace the old leading lights in Tulagi Harbour, and the navigation light on Bungana Island. The new lights are all of the flashing type, and are controlled by automatic sunvalves which turn off the gas during daylight. The old lights were of the fixed type, and burned continuously.

Three houses of B Grade type (which is smaller than A Grade type) were erected on Tulagi. A customs receiving shed was erected near the bond store. Quarters for Court witnesses were erected in the vicinity of the Police Lines.

A playing field and pavilion known as the King George V Memorial Park were completed, and a motor lawn mower was purchased. A concrete cricket pitch was laid down.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners, and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Com-

missioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Commissioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fines exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police Force in the Protectorate is an armed constabulary which performs the dual function of a Defence Force and Police. The personnel consists of the Commandant, a European Sub-Inspector, two Sergeants-Major and 112 other ranks. During the first half of the year there was no Sub-Inspector but an officer was appointed and assumed duty on the 10th June. The Force has been kept at full strength and men of the required physical standard offering themselves as recruits have been plentiful. The detachments at District Headquarters have been posted to suit requirements. The health of the Force has been good and a high standard of discipline maintained.

There is a central prison at Tulagi and small local gaols in the various Districts. At present the Commandant of Armed Constabulary is also Superintendent of Prisons. During the first half of the year under review the post of gaoler was filled by a European officer of another Department, and in June a permanent gaoler, who is also Sub-Inspector of Armed Constabulary was appointed. The establishment consists of 15 native warders and a wardress at Tulagi, and one warder at each of the district prisons. The discipline throughout the year has been satisfactory, and the health of the convicts has been good. No deaths have occurred. There were 78 convicts in the Central Prison at the beginning of the year and 75 on the last day of the year. There were no executions during 1937.

I. CRIMES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO THE POLICE, AND PERSONS PROCEEDED AGAINST ON CHARGE OF CRIME.

Crime.	Crimes reported or known to the Police.		Persons proceeded against.			
	Total.	Brought before a Magisterial Court.	Number.			Apprehended. Summoned.
			Total.	M.	F.	
1. Homicide	6	3	3	3	—	—
2. Other offences against the person	80	79	108	102	6	65
3. Praedial larceny	31	29	30	30	—	6
4. Other offences against property	49	48	57	54	3	33
5. Other crimes	278	277	422	407	15	356

2. PERSONS TRIED SUMMARILY OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

<i>Crime or Offence.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>			<i>Commit- ted for Trial.</i>	<i>Convicted Summarily (total).</i>
	<i>Number (total).</i>	<i>For want of pro- secution.</i>	<i>On the merits of the case.</i>		
1. Homicide	3	—	—	3	—
2. Other offences against the person.	110	—	22	26	62
3. Praedial larceny ...	30	—	8	2	20
4. Malicious injury to property.	11	—	—	—	11
Other offences against property (other than praedial larceny and malicious injury to property).	50	4	5	6	35
Other offences, viz. :—					
Offences against the Master and Servant laws, including laws relating to labourers under contract.	53	1	1	1	50
Offences against Revenue laws, Municipal, Road, and other laws relating to the social economy of the Protectorate.	124	—	17	—	107
Miscellaneous minor offences.	288	6	16	4	262

3. PERSONS TRIED ON ORDER OF COMMITTAL FOR INDICTABLE OFFENCES.

<i>Crime or Offence.</i>	<i>Tried (total).</i>	<i>Convicted. (total).</i>
1. Murder of wife or concubine ...	1	—
Murder of child	1	—
Murder, other than wife, child or concubine.	1	—
Manslaughter	2	2
2. Attempted murder	—	—
Rape	—	—
Unnatural crime	—	—
Other offences against the person ...	22	21
3. Praedial larceny	2	2
4. Offences against property with violence.	—	—
Other offences against property ...	4	3
5. Other crimes	11	11

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is the more important legislation enacted during the year 1936:—

No. 1. Closed Districts Regulation, 1937.—To provide for the declaration of closed Districts and the control of entrance into and residence in such Districts.

No. 2. Currency Regulation, 1937.—Relating to currency within the Protectorate.

No. 3. Dogs (Amendment) Regulation, 1937.—To amend Dogs Regulation, 1923.

No. 4. Public Holidays Regulation, 1937.—To make provision for public holidays.

No. 5. Customs Officers (Validation) Regulation, 1937.—To remove doubts of the validity of certain acts done under the Solomons (Customs) Regulation, 1907.

No. 6. Deputy Commissioners (Validation) Regulation, 1937.—To remove doubts as to the validity of acts done by District Officers acting as Deputy Commissioners for the Western Pacific under limited Commissions.

No. 7. Immigrants (Amendment) Regulation, 1937.—To amend the Immigrants Regulation, 1928.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure:—

					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1935	...	...	...	...	52,927	54,207
1936	...	...	...	...	58,465	49,224
1937	...	...	...	...	68,136	63,027

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1937, was £76,925.

Public Debt:—Nil.

Taxation:—

Description of main heads of taxation.

					Yield.
				£	£
Customs :					
Import duties	...	...	...	31,498	
Export duties	...	...	...	13,956	
					45,454
Licences and Internal Revenue					11,665
Ship licences	...	...	...	1,132	
Station licences	...	...	...	871	
Native tax	...	...	...	7,791	
Fees of Court and Office, etc.					1,566
Hospital fees	...	...	...	331	
Harbour light dues	...	...	...	673	
Post Office					1,295
Sale of stamps	...	...	...	906	
Telegraph receipts	...	...	...	270	
Rents and Royalties	...	...	...		3,184
Land rents	...	...	...	2,997	
Interest on investments	...	...	...		2,265
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		1,374
Land	...	...	...		142

XVI.—MINING.

Two mining leases that were granted last year on the Sorvohio and Tsarivonga rivers in the interior of the island of Guadalcanal were cancelled by the Mining Board as the company which held them failed to do any mining. Prospecting in the island is still being carried out however by two holders of prospecting licences.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meetings of the Advisory Council were held on 11th to 14th June and 4th to 8th October, 1937.

In 1932 an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connection with investigations regarding diseases of the coconut palm. This work was only made possible by a generous free grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate. To assist further, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, made an offer, which was accepted, of £600 a year towards the salary of a second entomologist. This contribution was later discontinued, on the transfer of the second entomologist, and Messrs. Lever's are now employing an officer.

Owing to the transfer to Fiji, on the 24th June, 1937, of the Entomologist, work has, of necessity, been temporarily suspended. The Agricultural Committee has, however, continued to function.

On the 2nd July, 1937, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific arrived at Tulagi in H.M.S. *Leith* of the New Zealand Station, on a tour of inspection of the Protectorate. His Excellency left Tulagi on the 6th July and, after visiting various parts of the Group, accompanied by His Honour the Resident Commissioner, left the Protectorate finally on the 18th July, 1937.

H.M.A.S. *Swan*, of the Royal Australian Navy, visited Tulagi from the 2nd to the 5th September, 1937. H.M.A.S. *Swan* also visited Faisi and Gizo prior to arrival at Tulagi.

It is with regret that the death of Mr. G. E. Clift is recorded. Mr. Clift, who was for many years a Non-Official Member of the Advisory Council of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, died at Tulagi Hospital on the 8th June, 1937.

On the 12th May, 1937, the Coronation of H.M. King George VI was celebrated throughout the Protectorate. A ceremonial parade and church service was held in Tulagi, followed by a reception at the Residency.

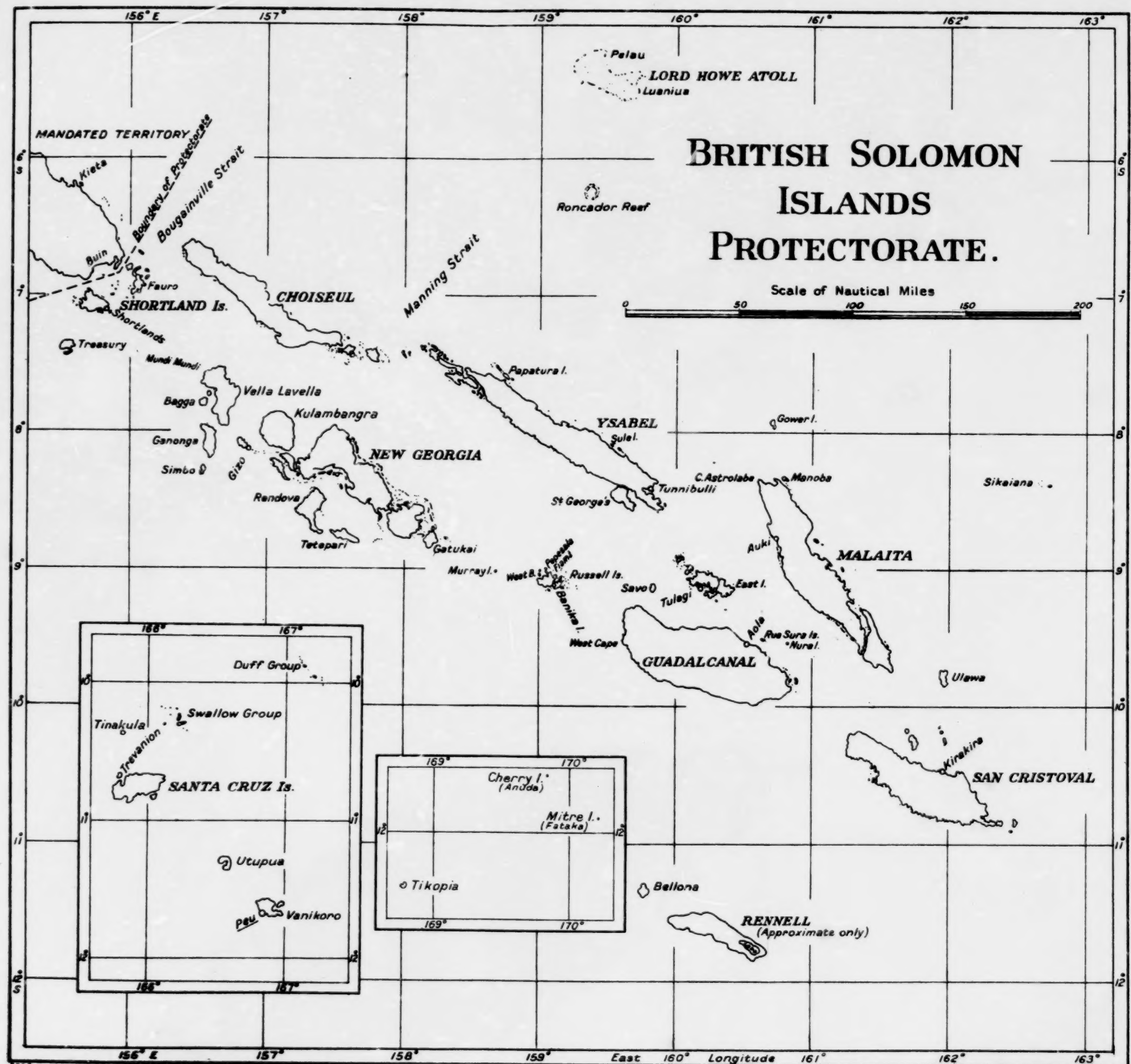
APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups." Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowde.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc.; in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in his "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
*Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.
*Census Report, 1931, together with various ethnological reports (typewritten).		

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

CONFERENCE OF COLONIAL DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE, JULY, 1938

Report and Proceedings

[Colonial No. 156] 2s. ()

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission

[Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.

[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOP- MENT

Report of Commission

[Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Reports by Mr. J. S. Neill and Duncan Cook, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

[Colonial No. 155] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 122] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 158] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 132] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

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PROTECTORATE
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CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
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KEDAH
KELANTAN

KENYA COLONY &
PROTECTORATE
LEEWARD ISLANDS
MAURITIUS
NEW HEBRIDES
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ST. HELENA
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TONGAN ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE
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UGANDA
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE

SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

*Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable
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No. 1908

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of the

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE, 1938

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE FOR THE YEAR 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE AND HISTORY.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is situated between the parallels of 5° South and 12° 30' South, and the meridians of 155° and 170° of East longitude.

The Protectorate consists of a double row of mountainous islands, extending at its extremities from Bougainville Straits to Mitre Island, in the Santa Cruz Group, for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south from the Ontong Java Group to Rennell Island for a distance of 430 miles, of which about 11,000 square miles are land.

The native population (mainly Melanesian) was calculated to be 93,415 at the last census taken in April, 1931.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana, while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The island first sighted he named Ysabel because it was on that Saint's day that he left Callao. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but failed to locate the island of Guadalcanal, whereon it was intended he should form a settlement, and he arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and landed at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved a failure, the

death of Mendana put an end to any prospect of success, and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

In 1767 Captain Cartaret re-discovered the Santa Cruz Group and the north-west coast line of the island of Malaita.

In the same year de Bougainville in the frigate *La Bouleuse* sailed from Montevideo on a deliberate quest of the Terra Australis, which he missed, and arrived at New Guinea; in sailing back he passed through the Straits which are the present north-eastern boundary of the Protectorate, the island to the north being named Bougainville after him, and the one to the south named after Choiseul, who was at the time Minister of France.

Twenty years later, and 700 miles to the south-east, la Perouse, in command of the French frigates *L'Astrolabe* and *La Boussole*, on a voyage of discovery, was wrecked at P'iou on the island of Vanikoro. His fate was unknown for 40 years.

From this time many Europeans visited the Group, and the British ships-of-war paid periodical visits.

In 1860 natives were recruited to work on plantations in Queensland and Fiji. The recruiting for Queensland ceased in 1903 and most of the natives were repatriated. Recruiting for Fiji continued until 1910.

Between the years 1860 and 1893 the number of resident white traders gradually increased, until at the time of the Proclamation in 1893 of the British Protectorate over the Southern Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal, Savo, Malaita, San Cristoval, the New Georgia Group and its Dependencies) the number of white residents approached 50.

In 1898 and 1899 the islands of the Santa Cruz Group, including Utupua, Tucopia, Vanikoro, the remote islands of Cherry and Mitre, Sikaiana, and the islands of Rennell and Bellona, were added to the Protectorate, and in 1900 the Northern Islands, namely, Ysabel, Choiseul, the islands of the Bougainville Straits, south and south-east of the main island of Bougainville, and the atoll group of Ontong Java, were transferred under convention from Germany to Great Britain.

The population of the Protectorate in April, 1931, was:—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	...	478
Native (Melanesian)	...	...	...	...	...	89,568
Native (Polynesian)	...	...	...	...	...	3,847
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	164
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	8
Malays...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	94,066

The climate of the Solomon Islands, owing to the prevalence of malaria and the general humidity of the atmosphere, is not healthy, but the conditions of living have been progressively improved during recent years and the possibilities of good health during temporary residence are far greater than formerly.

Generally speaking, the seasons are well defined by the trade winds. The south-east season lasts from April until November, when the lowest minimum temperature is recorded, and the highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in the months from November to April, which is commonly known as the north-west season.

The rainfall varies considerably from month to month and year to year; the average rainfall, recorded at Tulagi, is approximately 120 inches a year.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The British Solomon Islands Protectorate is administered by a Resident Commissioner (stationed in Tulagi) acting under the authority and control of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific (who resides in Suva, Fiji).

There is no Legislative Council. Laws are made by the High Commissioner—in the form of King's Regulations—under powers conferred by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893.

There is an Advisory Council, consisting of the Resident Commissioner and not more than seven members, three of whom are officials:—

Official Members.

R. Hyne, Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser.

F. E. Johnson, I.S.O., Treasurer.

S. G. C. Knibbs, Commissioner of Lands and Crown Surveyor.

Non-Official Members.

D. Mackinnon, M.B.E.

Right Reverend W. Baddeley, D.S.O., M.C., Bishop of Melanesia.

J. C. M. Scott.

C. E. Hart.

The Protectorate is divided up into eight administrative areas, each under a District Officer.

There is no form of municipal or local government or any Town Council at present.

III.—POPULATION.

The Native population of the Protectorate at the last census taken in 1931 was as follows:—

<i>Administrative District.</i>	<i>Males over 16 years.</i>	<i>Females over 16 years.</i>	<i>Males 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Females 16-6 years.</i>	<i>Males under 6 years.</i>	<i>Females under 6 years.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nggela and Savo	2,149	1,300	254	247	700	650	5,300*
Santa Cruz ...	1,865	1,596	347	193	575	504	5,080*
Ysabel and Cape Marsh ...	2,324	1,312	877	581	323	283	5,700*
Guadalcanal ...	4,559	4,387	1,944	1,338	1,028	959	14,215*
Malaita ...	12,669	12,058	5,484	4,732	2,748	2,376	40,067*
Eastern Solomons	2,430	2,160	245	213	1,382	1,130	7,560*
Shortlands ...	612	382	99	41	81	86	1,301*
Gizo ...	2,642	1,708	1,036	823	509	455	7,173*
Choiseul ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,051*
Lord Howe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	750†
Rennell and Bellona Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,500†
Sikaiana...	—	—	—	—	—	—	235†
Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	483*
Totals ...	29,250	24,903	10,286	8,168	7,346	6,443	93,415

* Mainly Melanesian.

† Mainly Polynesian.

No very great change in the population has taken place since the last census.

The natives of the Protectorate are for the most part Papuo-Melanesian stock with variations in skin colour, texture of hair and general physical characteristics.

In certain outlying islands, such as Lord Howe, Rennell, Sikaiana, Santa Catalina and Tucopia, the natives are of Polynesian stock.

The physique of the natives varies considerably in the different islands and even on the same island. It will be found that on the larger islands of Malaita, Guadalcanal, and Choiseul, the "bush" natives are generally of better physique than the "salt-water" natives.

The average height of the Melanesian is about 5 feet 3 inches and the average weight is about 9 stone 2 lb. The Polynesian is a taller and larger-built man.

In general, the natives are a heterogeneous people of varying races, cultures, religions and standard of living. For this

reason, generalities are apt to be misleading as a statement which is perfectly true of one island or section of an island may be entirely inapplicable to another part of the Group.

The natives, prior to contact with Europeans, were in the Neolithic stage of civilization.

Births and Deaths are recorded in the following Districts:—Guadalcanal, Gizo, Nggela and Savo, Eastern Solomons, Shortlands and Ysabel.

The following table gives the latest figures available:—

<i>District.</i>	1936.		1937.		1938.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	425	436	352	392	342	390
Gizo ...	198	95	249	96	137	91
Nggela and Savo ...	138	147	99	157	112	84
Eastern Solomons ...	—	—	—	—	17*	17*
Shortlands ...	—	—	—	—	13	13
Ysabel ...	77	45	102	41	58	51

* Incomplete.

There are no records from which infantile mortality rates may be calculated.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (PER 1,000).

<i>District.</i>	1936.		1937.		1938.	
	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Guadalcanal ...	29.9	30.6	24.7	27.5	24.1	27.4
Gizo ...	27.6	13.2	34.7	13.3	19.1	12.6
Nggela and Savo ...	26.0	27.7	18.6	29.6	21.1	15.8
Eastern Solomons ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shortlands ...	—	—	—	—	9.9	9.9
Ysabel ...	13.5	7.9	17.8	7.1	10.1	8.9

Of the records available the only excess of deaths over births is shown in the Guadalcanal District. This was due to epidemic influenza.

IV.—HEALTH.

The year may be considered a satisfactory one from a health point of view. Apart from local epidemics of influenza, which continue to occur at intervals, there was no unusual incidence of diseases. Hospital admissions, however, showed an increase on previous years.

The Yaws and Hookworm Campaign was continued among the natives as in past years.

A Leprosy Survey was made by Dr. James Ross-Innes. He examined 21,615 natives and found 221 lepers among them, giving an infection rate of 1.02 per cent.

Native Labour.

On the 1st April, 1938, a revised ration scale was introduced enforcing the issue of peas, beans or onions, or an approved native vegetable, weekly. This has improved the health of native labourers and it is hoped that Beri Beri will disappear completely. There were 22 deaths among labourers and of these nine were due to pneumonia.

The complete list of cause of death is as follows:—

Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia lobar...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Meningitis (broncho)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	5

V.—HOUSING.

European buildings throughout the Protectorate are built of wood and have, generally, corrugated-iron roofs. They are good in quality and have adequate sanitary accommodation.

The Chinese houses are of European type consisting usually of three rooms. There is no overcrowding and the sanitary arrangements are regularly inspected.

Except for those in regular employment, natives living in their own villages dwell in houses composed of thatch made from the leaf of the ivory-nut or sago palm, with bamboo or light wood rafters and usually very solid centre-posts. In certain parts, more especially where the natives have come into contact with European influence, the houses are built on wooden piles with a split betel-nut or bamboo flooring, but more usually they have an earth foundation with raised sleeping accommodation or roughly-constructed bunks. The type of building varies considerably from district to district, the natives of the Western Solomons being far superior craftsmen to those of the Eastern Solomons. The houses are generally fairly large and roomy, but rarely afford any means of privacy. The nature of the building material is in itself a safeguard as regards adequate ventilation. The Government encourages the laying out of villages and construction of better class houses, but it is a superimposed creation which it is as well not to hurry unduly.

The employer of labourers is legally responsible for the daily inspection of his labour houses and it is the duty of District Officers also to make regular periodical inspections of the hous-

ing conditions on plantations when on tour. All employers are bound to provide proper sanitary arrangements for their manual labourers.

There are no building societies.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

During the year ended 31st March, 1938, the Protectorate exported the following products:—

	Quantity.	Estimated value.
		£
Copra	22,937 tons	259,366
Ivory nuts	534 "	3,602
Trocas shell	213 "	14,945
Beche-de-mer	3 "	144
Green snail shell	54 "	1,800
Timber	1,431,945 sup. feet	8,044
		£287,901

The figures in this Report relate to the financial year 1937-8. During the calendar year 1937 the Copra market, upon which the whole finances of the Protectorate depend, fluctuated considerably. The London price rose in January to £22 12s. 6d. per ton, and gradually declined until the market price in December fell to £12 12s. 6d. per ton.

Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, produce exclusively a superior hot-air dried copra, and Messrs. Fairymead Sugar Company, Limited, Solomon Islands Development Company, Limited, and Shortland Islands Plantations, Limited, produce a considerable quantity of the same high-grade copra.

The present difference in value between this hot-air dried copra and the crudely-smoked copra would scarcely justify the additional expense of production and the outlay necessary to convert the smoke-drier on the smaller plantations.

The export duty on copra is on a sliding scale of 5 per cent. on the London price of sun-dried copra, less a parity of £5. This tax is adjusted on each Monday prior to the arrival of the mail steamer.

The price paid in Tulagi for trocas shell ranged from £20 to £80 per ton.

Ivory nuts grow wild. The natives collect the nuts and sell them to non-native traders. The market is small and not dependable.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Import and export statistics for the financial years ended 31st March, 1936, 1937 and 1938, are as follows:—

					<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
					£	£
1936	...	...	...	...	150,163	198,358
1937	...	...	...	...	197,967	331,438
1938	...	...	...	...	232,891	292,411

Imports.

		<i>From United Kingdom.</i>	<i>From other parts of the British Empire.</i>	<i>Foreign.</i>
		£	£	£
1936	...	20,608	98,807	30,748
1937	...	26,196	133,839	37,932
1938	...	32,327	157,037	43,527

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

Commodity.	Country of Origin.	Unit.	1936.		1937.		1938.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Bags and sacks	India	doz.	30,622	£ 10,098	34,025	£ 10,920	32,339	£ 10,024
Biscuits (plain)	Australia	lb.	290,131	3,793	393,793	5,512	390,738	6,747
Drapery	Australia		—	1,418	—	1,555	—	1,828
	China		—	578	—	908	—	1,392
	United Kingdom...		—	5,760	—	6,553	—	4,888
Hardware	Australia		—	1,691	—	2,550	—	3,967
	United Kingdom...		—	1,121	—	1,766	—	1,843
Machinery	Australia		—	3,918	—	5,220	—	10,815
	United Kingdom...		—	2,568	—	4,099	—	7,880
	U.S.A.		—	1,319	—	1,321	—	1,765
Meats (preserved)	Australia	lb.	244,040	6,363	307,689	8,787	305,302	9,893
	New Zealand		7,542	383	6,089	321	12,323	600
Kerosene	U.S.A.	gal.	24,569	1,832	22,172	1,605	15,158	1,101
	Borneo		44,949	1,706	44,205	1,342	33,542	1,777
Motor Fuel	Borneo	"	76,208	2,461	48,419	1,528	38,208	1,943
	U.S.A.	"	21,707	1,506	22,625	1,513	27,007	1,950
Paints	Australia	tons	21	1,812	24	2,038	30	2,329
	United Kingdom...	"	2	118	4	283	1½	97
Rice	Burma	"	1,200	13,572	1,558	17,941	1,586	19,957
	China	"	17	194	18	156	9	131
	Australia	"	8	99	1	15	1	20
	India	"	38	435	172	1,962	—	—
Tobacco	U.S.A.	lb.	53,137	6,413	66,064	8,020	62,840	7,925

Exports.

	To Australia.	To Europe.	To United States of America.	To Hong Kong.
	£	£	£	£
1936 ...	...	70,325	Nil	Nil
1937 ...	123,644	144,529	Nil	Nil
1938 ...	177,659	118,347	Nil	5,214
	168,850			

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Commodity.	Destination.	Unit.	1936.		1937.		1938.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Copra ...	Australia ...	tons	12,328	£ 83,480	12,377	£ 141,247	11,934	£ 138,912
	Europe ...	"	7,914	69,158	11,975	143,764	10,543	116,071
	Hong Kong	"	—	—	—	—	460	4,383
Trocas shell ...	Australia ...	"	336	23,400	256	21,661	184	12,669
	Europe ...	"	16	1,167	9	765	29	2,276
	Australia ...	"	270	1,754	367	3,086	365	2,771
Ivory nuts ...	Hong Kong	"	—	—	—	—	169	831
	Australia ...	"	72	1,918	57	2,156	54	1,800
Green snail shell ...	Australia ...	"	17	2,737	1/20	3	3	144
Beche-de-mer ...	Australia ...	"	—	—	—	—	—	—
Timber ...	Australia ...	Sup. feet	1,872,085	8,003	1,424,891	6,063	1,431,945	8,044

VIII.—LABOUR.

With the exception of a few Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen, the natives of the Protectorate constitute the whole of the available labour for all undertakings. Employment is of two categories, indentured and non-indentured. Natives may be indentured for periods not exceeding two years. Women may not be employed under contract otherwise than to a European female for the purposes of domestic service. Juvenile labour may only be employed for light work. The hours of work are nine hours a day for five days of the week, and five hours on Saturday. One thousand one hundred and twenty-nine labourers were signed on under contracts for varying periods, and 304 signed on for an extension of their original service.

Every employer of native labour, whether under written contract of service, or under verbal, monthly or day-to-day agreements, is compelled by Government Regulations to provide rations, soap, salt, bedding, tobacco and clothing for the labourer and for his wife and children if they accompany him. Ration books have to be kept by employers of five and more labourers, and they are subject to Government inspection.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living in Tulagi for European officials and residents is high, practically everything being imported and such imported articles showing a higher price than in the United Kingdom or Australia.

Fresh meat averages 1s. 6d. a pound, the best joints costing 1s. 9d. a pound. Ice costs 1s. 6d. a large block and 9d. a small block, bread 9d. a two-pound loaf, and eggs 3d. each. The cost of poultry in Tulagi ranges from 2s. to 3s. 6d. each. The living in outlying islands is considerably cheaper, as poultry, pigs and cows can be reared and vegetables grown.

The average rate of wages for Europeans employed on plantations ranges from £16 to £25 per month, the hours of work being from 45 to 55 per week. The wages of Asiatic mechanics and tradesmen vary from £10 to £16 a month.

The minimum wage payable to an indentured native labourer is ten shillings per mensem. A very large number, however, receive wages considerably in excess of this amount.

The cost of living and the quantity eaten by a native in his own village would be difficult to estimate.

There is no doubt that climate influences diet, and diet depends on local conditions. In the Protectorate this varies through all graduations from that of the Melanesian "bushman" on Malaita, the basis of whose dietary is taro and similar plants, to that of the Polynesian on coral atolls, whose diet is almost exclusively fish and coconut.

The diet is mainly vegetarian. There is no actual shortage of food, as, when the staple crop fails, there is a plentiful supply of wild yams and bananas.

There are no industrial factories or underground mines and there is no unemployment or land scarcity in the Protectorate.

Roughly, only one-eighth of the total native adult male population is employed for wages; all the others are private landowners who work in their own time and for periods to suit themselves.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Government schools in the Protectorate. Each of the five mission societies (i.e., the Melanesian Mission, the Methodist Mission, the South Sea Evangelical Mission, the Seventh Day Adventist Mission and the Marist Mission) operating in the Group provide elementary education. During the course of the year a Government Examination paper was set for the Methodist, Melanesian and Seventh Day Adventist Mission Schools. A refund of taxes was given to the native pupils of these schools and, in addition, a sum equal to 10 per cent. of the taxes was paid to the Mission schools. A grant of £50 was made to the Seventh Day Adventist Mission for technical education purposes.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Shipping.

Communication was maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessels. The M.V. *Malaita* called direct from Australia every six weeks, and after making several calls in the Protectorate proceeded to the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, returning, via Tulagi, to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy of £12,000 from the Commonwealth Government of Australia, to which the Protectorate Government contributes a yearly sum of £3,000. In return, the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights.

In addition, direct overseas shipments were made in British and German vessels during 1937-8.

The following figures represent the respective number and tonnage of ships of different nationalities, which visited the Protectorate for the purpose of exporting produce during the financial year 1937-8:—

					<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British ...	...	...	...	...	25	49,649
German ...	...	...	...	...	6	8,820

Inter-island communication was maintained at irregular intervals by sailing vessels with auxiliary engines, owned by planters and traders, and by the Government schooners which are attached to the groups of islands forming Districts, also by Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's M.V. *Mamutu*, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary, Limited, M.V. *Kurimarau*, and the Melanesian Mission's M.V. *Southern Cross*.

Railways and Roads.

There are no railways in the Protectorate. On coconut plantations where motor cars and motor lorries are used, ribbon tracks of coral have been made through the palm groves which stand up well to the traffic. Native villages are linked up usually by paths and tracks, varying in quality, but the sea and canoes are used generally for transport over long distances.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail vessel, is carried out in an intermittent fashion by small inter-island vessels or by chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate perform necessary postal duties. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world, and there are also two Government-owned wireless telephonic installations operating between Headquarters and District Stations. In addition there is a privately-owned wireless station at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group, the property of the timber company. This latter station is capable of communicating with the outer world, but, in accordance with the terms of the company's licence, all its traffic is routed via Tulagi. There are five privately-owned land wireless telephonic stations and two vessels fitted with telephony. A telephone system exists in Tulagi, connecting up various Government offices and certain private houses.

On 5th September, 1938, the Protectorate adopted the "all up" principle in connection with first-class mails destined for countries participating in the Empire Air Mail Scheme. As a result, all first-class mail matter for these destinations is forwarded by air as the normal means of transmission without surcharge, the rates of postage being 1½d. per half-ounce for letters and 1d. each for postcards.

In addition, an arrangement is in operation whereby letters for Australia and for countries participating in the Empire Air

Mail Scheme may be sent over the New Guinea—Australia air service subject to a surcharge of 4½d. per half-ounce.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The staff of the Department consists of a Superintendent of Works (acting), a European Foreman, a head Chinese mechanic and five other mechanics. Twenty natives are also employed.

Buildings erected during the year include an "A" grade quarters for the Chief Magistrate and Legal Adviser at Tulagi, a strongroom at Tulagi Post Office, Police barracks and Customs receiving shed at Gizo, and quarters for Native medical practitioners at Tulagi and Aola, Guadalcanal. Two pairs of leading beacons were erected at Gizo Harbour, a new electric lighting plant was installed at Tulagi Government Hospital, and a new Gardner 3L2 engine installed in the auxiliary vessel *Ramada*.

Maintenance of buildings was carried out at Headquarters and District Stations as required, the usual difficulties of transport being encountered with distant stations.

Government schooners and launches have been repaired when necessary.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. This Court, created by earlier Orders in Council, was continued and further provided for by the Pacific Order in Council, 1893. Its members are the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners. Judicial Commissioners are of two kinds. The Chief Justice of Fiji and every other Judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji are Judicial Commissioners by virtue of their office. The High Commissioner may appoint, in addition, persons of legal knowledge and experience to be Judicial Commissioners for particular purposes or for a particular time.

The principal judicial officer in the Protectorate is the Chief Magistrate, who is also Legal Adviser. He is appointed to be a Judicial Commissioner for the term of his tenure of the post of Chief Magistrate. The Court held before a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the Superior Courts in England, but when held before a Deputy Commissioner its jurisdiction is subject to certain limitations.

The Court of Appeal is the Supreme Court of Fiji. There is no provision for formal appeal in criminal cases, but powers of remission and commutation are vested in the High Com-

missioner, and all sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months or fine exceeding £100, when passed otherwise than by the High Commissioner or a Judicial Commissioner, must be submitted to the Court of Appeal for review.

Police and Prisons.

The Police Force in the Protectorate is an armed constabulary which performs the dual function of a Defence Force and Police. The personnel consists of the Commandant, a European Sub-Inspector, two Sergeants-Major and 112 other ranks. The force has been kept at full strength and the number of men of the required physical standard offering themselves as recruits has been plentiful. The detachments at District Headquarters have been posted to suit requirements. The health of the Force has been good and a high standard of discipline maintained.

There is a Central Prison at Tulagi and a small local gaol in each District. At present the posts of Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Prisons are combined. During the latter portion of the year the duties of gaoler were carried out by a European officer of another Department. The establishment consists of 1 Native clerk, 15 Native warders and a wardress at Tulagi and 1 Native warder at each District prison.

The discipline throughout the year has been satisfactory and the health of the convicts has been good. One death occurred. There were 73 convicts in the Central Prison at the beginning of the year and 78 on the last day of the year. There were no executions during the year.

During the year under review the Courts dealt with 887 defendants—836 male and 48 female—50 of whom were discharged for want of prosecution, 57 on the merits of the case, 1 was found insane and 30 were committed for trial before a Judicial Commissioner.

Of those punished by the Court 321 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, 341 were fined, 2 juveniles were whipped, and the remaining 115 were bound over or otherwise dealt with.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

The following is the more important legislation enacted during the year 1938:—

KING'S REGULATIONS.

No. 1.—Currency (Amendment) Regulation, 1938, amending Sections 4 (2), 5 (1) and (2) of King's Regulation No. 2 of 1937, and making provision for the "onus of proof".

No. 2.—Importation of Textiles (Quotas) (Amendment) Regulation, 1938, amending Section 2 of King's Regulation

No. 4 of 1934, in so far as it relates to the definition of "regulated textiles".

No. 4.—*Customs Duties (Amendment) Regulation*, 1938, amending Section 2 of King's Regulation No. 8 of 1933 by including the word "Burma" in the definition of the "British Empire".

No. 5.—*Red Cross (Restriction on Trade Use) Regulation*, 1938, repealing the Red Cross (Restriction on Trade Use) Regulation, 1932.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Protectorate except a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank which transacts savings bank business only.

Currency.

Local currency notes ceased to be legal tender after 24th September, 1937. The following is the legal tender within the Protectorate:—

Australian notes and coin to the extent to which they are legal tender within the Commonwealth;

United Kingdom coin to the extent to which it is legal tender within the United Kingdom.

Weights and Measures.

Weights and measures are on the same basis as in the United Kingdom.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

						Revenue.	Expenditure.
						£	£
1936	...	...	...	...	...	58,465	49,224
1937	...	...	...	...	...	68,136	63,027
1938	...	...	...	...	...	82,809	69,002

The excess of assets over liabilities on 31st March, 1938, was £90,732.

Public Debt:—Nil.

Taxation:—

<i>Description of main heads of taxation.</i>						<i>Yield.</i>
						£
Customs :						
Import duties	...	...	...	...	32,986	
Export duties	...	...	...	...	11,631	
						44,617
Licences and Internal Revenue						10,038
Ships licences	...	...	...	...	993	
Station licences	...	...	...	...	768	
Native tax	...	...	...	...	6,694	
Fees of Court and Office, etc.						1,884
Hospital fees	...	...	...	...	452	
Harbour light dues	...	...	...	...	438	
Post Office						12,910
Sale of stamps	...	...	...	...	12,321	
Telegraph receipts	...	...	...	...	356	
Rents and Royalties						3,374
Land rents	...	...	...	...	2,949	
Interest on investments						3,496
Miscellaneous						5,197
Land						105

XVII.—MINING.

No actual mining has yet been done in the Protectorate, but prospecting has been persistently carried out during the year in the Sorvohio River area, in the island of Guadalcanal.

Four prospecting licences only were held at the end of the year, one by a local syndicate, and three by a company with headquarters in Melbourne.

XVIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meetings of the Advisory Council were held on 4th to 6th April and 7th to 9th November, 1938.

In 1932 an Agricultural Committee was formed and work was begun in connection with investigations regarding diseases of the coconut palm. This work was only made possible by a generous free grant of £5,000 from the Colonial Development Fund together with an appropriation of £5,000 from the Reserve Funds of the Protectorate. To assist further, Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Proprietary Limited made an offer, which was accepted, of £600 a year towards the salary of a second entomologist. This contribution was later discontinued, on the transfer of the second entomologist, and Messrs. Lever's are now employing an officer.

Owing to the transfer to Fiji, on the 24th June, 1937, of the entomologist, work has, of necessity, been temporarily suspended. The Agricultural Committee has, however, continued to function.

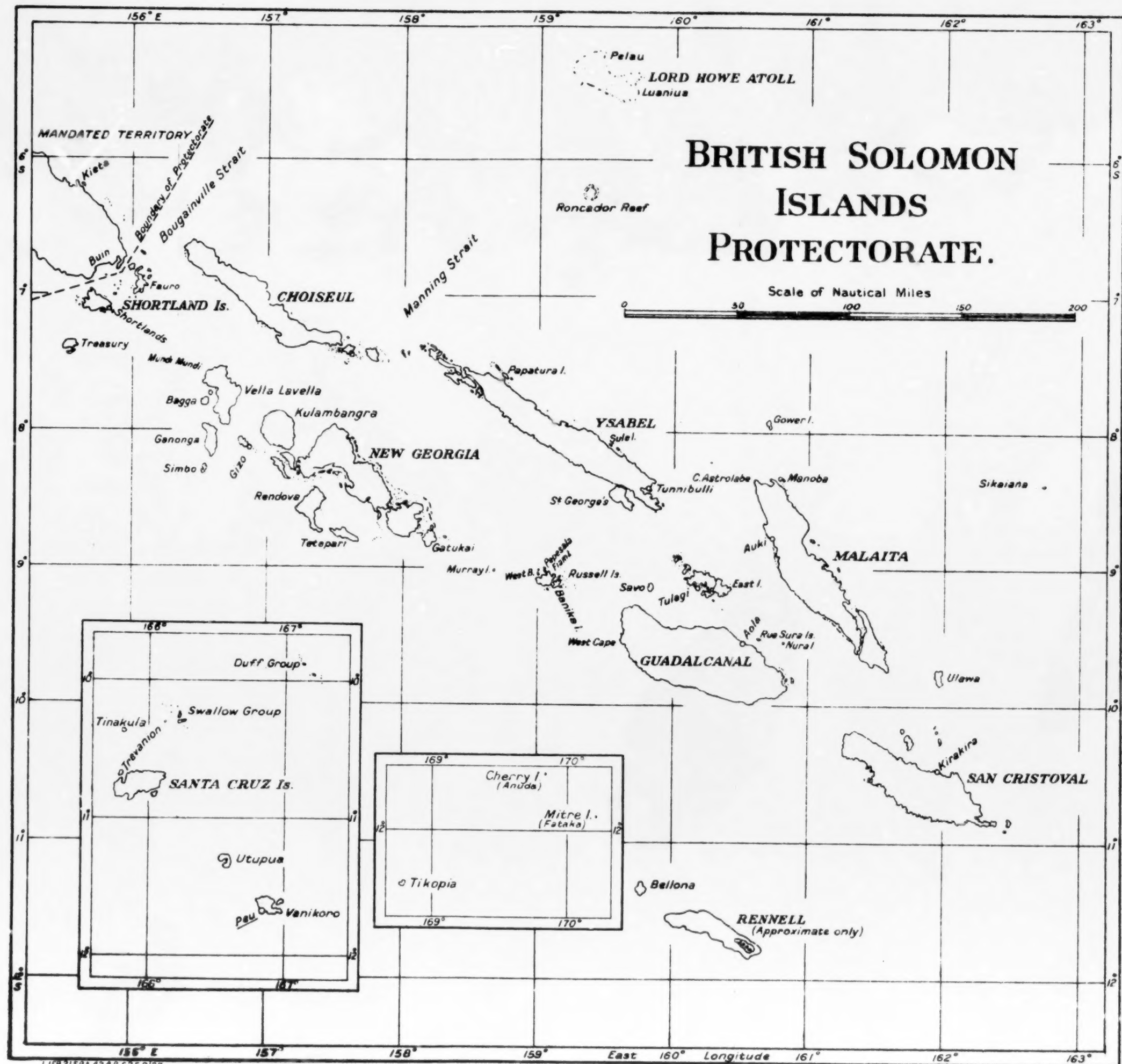
APPENDIX.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS
PROTECTORATE.

<i>Title, etc.</i>	<i>Price.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>
*The Solomon Islands (in his "Autobiography"), 1908, by Rev. George Brown.	15s.	Hodder and Stoughton.
"Notes of Voyage to Ysabel Island, Solomon Group, and Le Ua Niua (Ontong Java or Lord Howe) and Tasman Groups." Paper read at the Adelaide meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, January, 1907.	—	—
Solomon and Santa Cruz Islands in his "Melanesian Studies in Anthropology and Folk-lore," 1891, by Dr. R. H. Codrington.	16s.	Frowde.
*"The Threshold of the Pacific," 1924, by Dr. C. E. Fox.	18s.	K. Paul.
Papers in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, 1915 and 1919.	—	—
*"The Solomon Islands and their Natives," 1887, by Dr. H. P. Guppy.	25s.	Sonnenschein.
*Solomon and other islands in his "Memoir and Journal of Commodore Goodenough," 1876, by Commodore Goodenough.	5s.	K. Paul.
"The Discovery of the Solomon Islands," 1568, by Alvaro Mendana.	—	—
*Santa Cruz Group, Cherry Island, etc., in his "New Guinea and Polynesia, Discoveries and Surveys," 1876, by Captain John Moresby.	15s.	Murray.
*Solomons, Santa Cruz Islands, and Tikopia in "History of the Melanesian Society," 1914, by W. H. R. Rivers.	36s.	Cambridge University Press.
"Islands of the Western Pacific," by Bishop J. R. Selwyn.	—	—
*"Two years with the Natives in the Western Pacific," 1913, by Dr. Felix Speiser.	10s. 6d.	Mills and Boon.
"Last Cruise of the Wanderer," 1863, by John Webster.	—	—
"A Naturalist among the Head Hunters," 1890, by C. M. Woodford.	8s. 6d.	G. Philip & Son.
*"Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"Further Exploration in the Solomon Islands" (Paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, 1890).	—	—
*"In the Isles of King Solomon," 1928, by A. I. Hopkins.	21s.	Seeley Service & Co.
*Solomon Islands Protectorate Blue Book ...	5s.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.
*Handbook of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.	2s. 6d.	Out of print.
*Census Report, 1931, together with various ethnological reports (typewritten).		

Note.—There are no local agents for the sale of these publications.

* Copies may be seen in the library of the Colonial Office.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NYASALAND. FINANCIAL POSITION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Report of Commission [Colonial No. 152] 10s. (10s. 6d.)

RHODESIA-NYASALAND ROYAL COMMISSION

Report [Cmd. 5949] 7s. 6d. (7s. 11d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE WEST INDIES

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.
[Cmd. 6070] 3s. 6d. (3s. 10d.)

THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTMENT IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND THE COLONIAL SERVICES

Report of Committee [Cmd. 3554 (1930)] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS FOR THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee [Cmd. 4730 (1934)] 9d. (10d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee [Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

COLONIAL STUDENTS

Report of the Colonial Students Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1938 [Colonial No. 161] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

Colonial Administrative Service List	[Colonial No. 147] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.)
Colonial Agricultural Service List	[Colonial No. 157] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Audit Service List	[Colonial No. 162] 4d. (5d.)
Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 163] 6d. (7d.)
Colonial Legal Service List	[Colonial No. 172] 9d. (10d.)
Colonial Medical Service List	[Colonial No. 159] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
Colonial Police Service List	[Colonial No. 168] 1s. (1s. 2d.)
Colonial Veterinary Service List	[Colonial No. 160] 6d. (7d.)

All prices are net. Those in brackets include postage

Obtainable from

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LONDON, W.C.2 : York House, Kingsway
EDINBURGH 2 : 120, George Street
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MANCHESTER 1 : 26, York Street
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or through any bookseller

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

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CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)
CEYLON
CYPRUS
FALKLAND ISLANDS
FEDERATED MALAY STATES
FIJI
THE GAMBIA
GIBRALTAR
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS
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HONG KONG
JAMAICA
JOHORE
KEDAH

KELANTAN
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ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND
PROTECTORATE

SWAZILAND

MANDATED TERRITORIES

Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

PALESTINE AND TRANS-JORDAN
TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

CAMEROONS under British Mandate
TOGOLAND under British Mandate

*Further particulars as to the latest reports and prices are obtainable
from the Sale Offices of*

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

